

# THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND

## China Overland Trade Report.

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### BIRTH.

On the 29th January, at Amoy, the wife of T. G. GOWLAND, of a son.

### MARRIAGES.

At Shanghai, on the 24th January, 1899, by Rev. J. A. Sadka and afterwards at H.B.M.'s Consulate, E. M. EZRA, to ROSA, sixth daughter of M. HAIMOVITCH.

On the 28th January, at Joseph's Church, Hongkong, by the Rev. Father S. de Maria, CHARLES THOMAS ROBINSON, of Waltham Green, London, to BRIDGET BURKE, of Blackheath.

### ARRIVALS OF MAILS.

The French mail of the 30th December arrived, per M. M. steamer *Sydney*, on the 30th January (31 days).

### EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

We (Echo) understand that the Provincial Authorities have withdrawn their opposition to the locality demanded by the Japanese Government for a settlement at Foochow, on the condition that Chinese at present in occupation should not be required to move immediately. Negotiations will be concluded as soon as the Japanese Consul agrees to the above stipulation.

A French post office has been opened at Kwangchowwan.

A Peking telegram of the 21st January published in the Japan papers says that the work on the construction of the railway from Kiaochow to Tsinanfu is to be commenced next month.

Mr. J. A. van Aalst, Acting Postal Secretary in the Inspectorate-General of Customs, Peking, has received the substantive appointment. An Assistant Postal Secretary is to be appointed. —*N. C. Daily News*.

Sir Claude MacDonald is likely to go home in March on leave. Overwork has been responsible for a not altogether satisfactory state of health. It is quite probable that his leave of six months will be extended. —*Mercury*.

A Chungking telegram of the 27th January to the *N. C. Daily News* states that the Taotai there has been replaced, during the absence of the English and French Consuls, by the Taotai who was disgraced there during the riots of 1886.

It is proposed to establish an Army Sanitarium at Nagasaki for the use of the United States troops at Manila. The *Nagasaki Press* warmly supports the proposal and eulogises Nagasaki as the healthiest port in the Far East and an ideal sanitarium.

The *Ostasiatische Lloyd* learns that the Brussels Société Générale, the Banque de Paris et des Pays-Bas, and several other Banks in Antwerp and Liège, have decided to found a Belgian-Chinese Bank, with a capital of 30 million francs (£1,200,000).

Lord Charles Beresford embarked on the *America-maru* at Yokohama on the 26th January for San Francisco. The British Consul, the Governor of Kanagawa, the members of the Chamber of Commerce, and a large number of British residents bade him farewell at the *hatoba*.

A Kobe telegram to the *N. C. Daily News* reads:—The Nippon Yusen Kaisha's steamer *Yamaguchi Maru*, from Seattle, took fire on Thursday (26th January). She made Ogino-hama (in Rikuzen, on the east coast of the main island, on the Bay of Sendai) this morning. Passengers and crew safe. Fire still burning.

We hear that the Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart, who is a passenger by the next outward English mail steamer, is to be seconded for six months from his office of Colonial Secretary for the purpose of organising the administration of the new Kowloon territory. For the present, it is understood, the finances of the new territory are to be kept distinct from those of the colony generally.

The *Ostasiatische Lloyd* says that the German Government has selected in the new concession at Tientsin a lot measuring 1.12 hectares with the intention of building a Consulate on it. The building in the English Concession serving at present for this purpose is to be sold, and the proceeds will be used towards defraying the cost of the new building. The sale by public auction of the lots in the German Concession—the whole of which belongs to a Syndicate, at the head of which stands the Deutsch-Asiatische Bank—is to take place in a very short time.

In order to be able to carry out more effectively the scheme of raising a Volunteer Corps in Canton the Acting Provincial Judge Ng and the Expectant Taotai Cheong have received instructions to jointly issue a proclamation ordering a census to be taken of all the inhabitants of Canton, including the priests and nuns, with particulars of their incomes and expenditure, and all houses and shops are to be numbered.

We hear that the new Yangtze Regulations are about to be issued by the I. M. Customs. The chief point in the Regulations lately drawn up is that merchants need not pay import duties at Shanghai on cargo intended for River Ports as hitherto, but only when the cargo arrives at its destination; similarly export duties on cargo, sent down from River Ports for shipment abroad, will be payable at Shanghai and not at the port of origin as hitherto. We also believe that under the Regulations a couple of new ports of call for passenger steamers are to be opened on the Yangtze. —*China Gazette*.

A gentleman who recently passed through the districts in Kwangsi Province which were last year the scene of rebellion and its suppression states that the crops in the fields were all standing and will not be harvested, as the people were either all killed or feared to return and gather the harvest. Whole villages and towns were tenantless and in other towns whole streets were unoccupied, the late inhabitants having been exterminated. It appears that rebels and troops alike waged a war of extermination, neither man, woman, or child being spared. The district is watered by a river discharging into the West River at a point about thirty miles above Wuchow and is in extent some fifty or sixty miles long by forty or fifty miles wide. Another gentleman, who saw numbers of mutilated corpses floating down the river during the period of the rebellion and its suppression, states that most of the corpses were headless and that they were made up equally of male and female and young and old persons; he mentioned the fact that he was most impressed and disgusted by the sight of the headless body of a woman with the headless body of her infant secured to her back.

We have to acknowledge receipt of the first number of the *Journal of the American Association of China*, printed at the Shanghai Mercury Office. The American Association of China was constituted at a meeting held at Shanghai on the 16th December last, its primary objects being the furtherance of American trade and other interests in China and the defence of American rights. The provisional Committee authorized the printing of the *Journal* with such extracts from the minutes of the Committee's meetings and copies of correspondence as might be likely to prove interesting to the members of the Association, and the hope is expressed that the permanent Executive Committee to be elected will see fit to continue its publication at intervals. The present number contains the minutes of the meeting at which the Association was constituted, the minutes of a meeting of the provisional Committee, and correspondence that has passed with the American Asiatic Association (New York), Lord Charles Beresford, and the United States Minister. The Association has not been idle since its constitution and it is evident that it has before it a wide field of usefulness.



**MR. KESWICK, M.P., AND EASTERN INTERESTS.***(Daily Press, 30th January.)*

With the election to Parliament of Mr. WILLIAM KESWICK the China trade secures another representative in that assembly, and we may assume also that the interests of Hongkong in particular, both commercial and political, will command the new member's special attention. His past and present connection with the colony is a sufficient guarantee on that point. Mr. KESWICK was a member of our Legislative Council at an especially troublous period in the history of the colony, and in that capacity acquitted himself in such a manner as to earn the gratitude and admiration of the community. This was expressed in a marked manner by the presentation of an address and testimonial when he went home on leave in 1881. When he finally left the colony in 1886 he carried with him universal esteem and good wishes, and his election to the House of Commons will afford lively satisfaction and be of great advantage to local interests, with which Mr. KESWICK, through his firm, is still closely associated. Material is not lacking to enable us to form a fair idea of what the new member's policy is likely to be. He has always taken a sanguine view of the commercial prospect in China and in Hongkong. When replying to the address presented to him in 1881 Mr. KESWICK said:—"It is twenty-five years since I first saw this beautiful harbour, a period which has embraced many changes, in fact, as regards commerce, a revolution, not only in the colony, but on the coast of China and in the Far East. I think the prosperity which its growth shows is due not only to its own special advantages, but the neighbouring continent of China is moving also, and it cannot move without every mark of progress redounding to the prosperity of this city. I have seen, gentlemen, periods of depression, I have seen things at a low ebb, but I have never been one who lost faith in the eventual recovery from every tide of depression that we have seen, and I am sure the public companies to which you refer are as yet only in their infancy, that these establishments on the joint stock principle are yet destined to work not only to the material prosperity of this colony, but that we shall see as that movement progresses on the neighbouring continent, facilities for the increase and the promotion of wealth, not to us alone, but to the millions of China, when railroads and scientific appliances for the improvement of their country are introduced. I am one, gentlemen, who believes that that day is not so very far distant. I believe the intercourse of the Chinese with European enterprise has had its effect, that the movement at present in progress is gaining strength, and that before long there will be powerful converts in China to the importance of following Western ideas." Mr. KESWICK's views on Hongkong and its prospects and requirements were more fully set out in a paper read by him at the Royal Colonial Institute in 1890. Things have moved since then, and moved rapidly, and more interest attaches to the views the new member holds now than to those he held ten or twenty years ago. Well, Mr. KESWICK was one of the speakers at the monthly dinner of the London Chamber of Commerce in November last, and on that occasion he said:—"The older order of things in China had come to an end, and it was worth while to consider what the new or-

der of things was to be. The old order of things could not pass away without causing a great deal of friction among nations. To see a country fall to pieces when he thought it might be maintained and reformed would be to him a matter of great grief. Spheres of influence or spheres of interest were talked about; but the important question was that of the open door. If that was to be the order of things a great civilising influence would be introduced and trade would be unfettered; but if it were to be otherwise British interests were in danger of being shut out. He did not think it was a very important matter that we should be shut out from railway enterprises. So long as railways were constructed, to his mind it was not very important by whom they were constructed. He did not, however, think that England would come very badly out of the scramble for concessions. With regard to the political question, he was not one of those who looked with regret on the action of the Government. On the contrary, he thought that Lord SALISBURY had acted wisely and prudently, except in one particular. He thought a huge mistake was made when the Fleet was ordered to leave Port Arthur. One matter of the greatest importance was the opening up of communication by water in China and he hoped that some means would be devised by which the natural obstructions in the way would be removed." Mr. KESWICK, we may feel sure, will do all he can to further the interests of trade in China and Hongkong, but from the above remarks it may be inferred that he will not minister to the gratification of those who, as our Shanghai morning contemporary recently put it, enjoy a good hearty denunciation of Lord SALISBURY. When we see men like Sir THOMAS SUTHERLAND and Mr. WILLIAM KESWICK giving a general endorsement of the policy of the Government with regard to China we may look upon the tirades of our local Jingoes as little more than the crackling of thorns under a pot.

**THE SHANGHAI BRANCH OF THE CHINA ASSOCIATION ON GREAT BRITAIN'S DUTY IN CHINA***(Daily Press, 1st February.)*

The memorandum on the present conditions of foreign trade in China issued by the Shanghai Branch of the China Association will commend itself to British residents in the Far East as being timely and characterised by sound common sense, more especially that portion of it which deals with the duty of Great Britain to lead the movement for the complete reform of the fiscal and administrative system of China. The transit pass question has been more fully, and we may say more ably, dealt with by the parent Association in London quite recently, and on the questions of residence in the interior and the limitations placed on the promised opening of the inland waters the Shanghai Branch has little that is new to say. When we come to the question of the measures necessary to bring about reform, however, the views expressed in the memorandum, if they do not possess the quality of novelty, are valuable on account of the force with which they are brought home. The memorandum appears to have been issued partly in support of the views expressed by Lord CHARLES BERESFORD and partly to supply a deficiency in his Lordship's programme. Lord CHARLES in all his speeches dwelt on the great importance of supplying China with an efficient army, and paid but little attention to the necessity of fiscal reform until

the point was directly placed before him at the semi-private time at which he honoured the Hongkong Branch of the China Association with his company, when he admitted its importance but urged that the reorganisation of the army was an essential preliminary to such reform in order that the Government might be able to enforce its decrees. The Shanghai Branch of the China Association appear to have thought that reform in the administration generally calls for more prominence than has been given to it by Lord CHARLES and that it is necessary to guard against any mistaken inference, that might possibly be drawn from his speeches, that if China were only supplied with an efficient army all the rest would be plain sailing. They say, accordingly, that while there must be some foundation of strength upon which to base action—"i.e. a national army—"it is a great error to proceed on the assumption that the few high officials who, with the Court, may be said to constitute the Central Government are desirous of seeing China strong or of maintaining the integrity of the Empire. . . . Those in power probably foresee that without reform China as a nation is doomed, but arguments tending to impress this fact upon her rulers are wasted; it is sufficient for them that the change will not affect them personally. If China is to be saved, she will have to be saved in spite of her Government; Great Britain cannot look for any assistance from that quarter, on the contrary she must be prepared to meet with sullen opposition from those whom she would succour." The one thing wanted for the development of trade, for the protection of capital, and for the extension of enterprise in China, the memorandum goes on to say, is security, that such security must be sought in fiscal and administrative reform of the country, which can only be effected through pressure from without, and that the vast preponderance of British interests in China clearly demand that Great Britain shall lead and guide the movement. The word "alliance" is nowhere used in the memorandum, but in the closing sentence reference is made to the difficulties which must be faced in order to bring about China's reform, and it is urged that Great Britain, in leading the movement, should endeavour to obtain the co-operation of the great nations who have like aims and interests with ourselves. In the previous sentence, however, it is urged that Great Britain must lead and not follow in Peking. That is to say, if other Powers are willing to co-operate, well and good, but Great Britain must take the lead in the work of reforming the Chinese Government. It would only be a step further to say that if other Powers are unwilling to co-operate Great Britain must undertake the task alone.

**PIRACY ON THE WEST RIVER.***(Daily Press, 28th January.)*

Among the resolutions passed by the Committee of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce and sent to Lord CHARLES BERESFORD in November last, and which have recently been published in our columns, there appeared the following:—"In view of the lawless condition of the Two Kwang it should be strongly impressed on the Chinese Government that vigorous measures be promptly taken to put down brigandage and restore order throughout the provinces." Special point



has since been given to this resolution by the occurrence of numerous fresh piracies on the West Rivers, accounts of which have appeared in our columns. A well-informed correspondent, writing on this subject, says that there are two centres of piracy along the great waterway where these crimes are most frequent, the neighbourhood of Takhing and the vicinity of the way-port of Kongmün, the former place being a considerable distance up the river, and the latter not very far from its estuary. The seizures are effected by carefully premeditated plans, the robbers dividing and coming on board as passengers at different points to allay suspicion. Already the miscreants have shown, by the brutal mutilation of the Chinese captain of one of the pirated craft, that they will not stick at violence if there is the slightest attempt at resistance, and although up to the present foreign steamers have escaped actual interference we may be sure, from what we know of the daring of Cantonese smugglers and pirates, that they will not hesitate to transfer their attentions to foreign ships if the prize appears to be commensurate with the greater risk. In past times foreign steamers have been successfully pirated by Chinese, and the case of the *Lamoa*, when Captain Pocock was wantonly murdered, must be very fresh in the recollection of the majority of our readers. That deed was carried out on very much the same plan as most of the West River piracies are committed. A number of ruffians took passage on the *Lamoa* as ordinary passengers by the vessel and had arms concealed in their baggage. Precautions are now taken to prevent a recurrence of such a coup on foreign steamers, but the pirates are cunning, and on the West River steamers owned by Chinese there is neither the time nor have the crew the facilities for examining all the passengers who come on board at the way ports.

Something should be done without delay to put a stop to this organised system of brigandage along this great waterway. Not only does it interfere directly with trade, but it is sure to grow into greater strength with continued immunity from all consequences. The merchants in the Loting district are regularly and openly blackmailed by brigands who otherwise would not allow their produce to be shipped. Our correspondent suggests, what from all knowledge of the ways of Yamen underlings seems only too probable, that the Yamen runners and so-called soldiers are in league with the pirates. This is often the case in China, and toll is collected from the heads of the piratical fraternity, in return for which timely intelligence of the movements of the mandarin gunboats and of punitive expeditions are furnished to the outlaws. The Chamber of Commerce suggests that the Chinese Government should be approached on the question of maintaining order and suppressing piracy, and this would undoubtedly be a good move if the central Government possessed the will and the power to compel the authorities of the Two Kwang to properly police the West River. They possess neither, and we fear it is of little use trying to impress them with a sense of their duty in this respect. Sir CLAUDE MACDONALD will, however, we trust, not be discouraged by this fact. His duty is plain, and if only the Foreign Office will properly support him a good deal may be obtained in the shape of initial measures and authorisation for others. The British Government have already sent out some gunboats for service on the rivers of China, and the *Sandpiper*, only launched the other

day at Kowloon, is, we believe, intended for the West River. The sooner she is actively engaged in cruising up and down that busy highway the better for the interests of foreign and of Chinese trade alike. It may be objected that she will see but little of what is going on, and that the pirates will be well informed of her whereabouts, but she will none the less import an element of security to the route so far as foreign steamers are concerned.

But the stationing of a few gunboats on the inland waters of China ought not to exhaust the resources of British diplomacy. Much more will have to be done if the country is to be assisted, and the forces of disorder overthrown. Many years ago the British warships undertook the task of freeing the Chinese coasts from the pest of piracy, and the good work done has endured until this day. It may be necessary for the new gunboats to be armed with authority by the Chinese Government to root out and destroy the river pirates just as in former years the British Navy cleared the coasts of these harpies. It may also be necessary, in order to prevent the utter strangulation of trade by official squeezing, to induce the Chinese Government to confide the collection of the revenue in the Two Kwang to English officials. Great Britain is now in the position of being China's largest creditor as well as her largest customer. She cannot afford to see trade diminished by official corruption, nor can she suffer her trade to be hampered in order that an army of mandarins may eat up the substance of the country. Sooner or later it will come to this that the administration of the Customs and the finances of the Chinese Empire will in the interests of the bondholders pass into the custody of foreign hands, for no reliance can be placed upon the assurances of the Peking Government, nor is there any prospect of their securing effective control over the distant provinces, however much they may desire to strengthen their hold on the Viceroy. The first step towards the attainment of the desired end—the development and progress of this ancient Empire—must undoubtedly be the practical supersession of the mandarin as the administering power. It is no good trying to blink this fact, and nothing is to be gained by pretending to hope for the speedy reform of the administration. Reform is not likely to come from within; it must be imposed from without. The sooner this condition is publicly and generally recognised the better for all parties.

#### THE FRENCH DEMANDS AT SHANGHAI.

(Daily Press, 3rd February.)

The *North-China Daily News* fears that Lord CHARLES BERESFORD, with the best intentions in the world, made a mistake when, by the advice he gave the Viceroy LIU at Nanking, he practically converted the French Settlement demands at Shanghai from a local into a political question, the result being that the French Consul-General broke off his negotiations, a step which Mr. CHAMBERLAIN, who evidently is not clearly informed about a subject which is not properly in his department, claims as being a withdrawal of the French demand. For our own part we must confess that we cannot detect any antithesis between local questions and political questions; all political questions must necessarily have their origin in some place. If Lord CHARLES BERESFORD made a mistake in over-rating the importance of this particular question, he erred in good company, for from the *Journal of the American Association in China*

we learn that on the 5th ultimo the Provisional Committee of that body telegraphed to the American Minister at Peking in the following terms:—"French Settlement Extension on exclusive lines reported imminent, Americans here again vigorously protest;" and on the same date the following telegram was sent to the President at Washington:—"Americans Shanghai strongly protest against extension French Settlement with exclusive jurisdiction; reported imminent." The Minister at Peking acknowledged by letter receipt of the telegram forwarded to him and replied that a protest had already been made with the Chinese Government. According to the American Association the ground of objection to the extension of the French Settlement was the exclusive jurisdiction that was claimed; but according to the *Daily News* the great local objection to the demand is the injury that it is alleged will be thereby done to British and other owners of land that will be brought under French control if the extension is granted. "But," continues our contemporary, "it does not seem to be generally known that this matter was satisfactorily settled by a special convention between the British and French Consuls-General, and that this convention, which provided *inter alia* for the neutralisation of the foreign cemetery at Pabsienjao, received, we are informed, the assent of the British Minister at Peking. Thus one of our principal objections to French extension was removed before the Count DE BEZAURE broke off negotiations, and it is only fair to him that this should be generally known."

As to the aspect of the French demands as an infringement of our sphere of influence in the Yangtze Valley our contemporary remarks that we are making no sustained objection to the Germans and Russians and Japanese obtaining actual concessions at Hankow, the implication apparently being that the latter are as much an infringement of the British sphere of influence in the Yangtze Valley as would be the extension of the French concession at Shanghai. There is considerable force in that suggestion and sooner or later the whole question of Foreign Settlements at the Treaty Ports and the rights such Settlements confer on Foreign Governments may have to be raised and settled. But in the meantime it may be pointed out that there is a wide difference between the Hankow cases and that of the French Settlement at Shanghai inasmuch as at the former port there is no cosmopolitan Settlement and the concessions acquired by the various Powers are required for the purposes of trade, or it may at least be contended that they are so required; whereas in the case of Shanghai there is a cosmopolitan Settlement with which the French would be welcome to amalgamate if they so chose, but instead of doing so they make a demand for the extension of their present exclusive Settlement, such extension not being required for purposes of trade but being asked for as compensation for the disturbance that arose out of the action of the French with regard to the Ningpo Josephine. Another but unexpressed reason for the demand was, as we understand, to place limits on the extension of the cosmopolitan Settlement. There may be much to be said for and against national Settlements as opposed to cosmopolitan Settlements at the Treaty Ports, but where there is already a cosmopolitan Settlement in existence there can be no difference of opinion as to the undesirability of exclusive national Settlements.



ments being allowed to grow up side by side with it and to cramp its growth. The British and American Settlements at Shanghai were amalgamated and made into a cosmopolitan Settlement, but France declined to join in the combination, electing to reserve her concession to herself, to be used as a lever, it may be assumed, for future political and territorial aggrandisement. Under the circumstances of the case the extension now demanded seems to possess very considerable political importance.

#### A LEGISLATIVE ABSURDITY.

(Daily Press, 3rd February.)

The new law requiring private chairs to carry lights between sunset and sunrise might fittingly serve Mr. HERBERT SPENCER as an example of the follies of legislators. At the meeting of the Legislative Council on Wednesday the Acting Attorney-General remarked that it was as necessary that private vehicles should carry lights as public vehicles. The hon. gentleman made no attempt to demonstrate the necessity, which, in fact, so far as private chairs are concerned, is non-existent and therefore incapable of demonstration. At the same meeting of Council the Captain-Superintendent of Police showed that it was unnecessary to impose certain suggested regulations with regard to trollies, because there were fewer vehicle accidents in Hongkong than in any other city of equal size and the accidents caused by trollies last year reached the "large" total of two. By parity of reasoning it might be shown that the regulation requiring private chairs to carry lights is unnecessary, for if the records were searched from the date of the foundation of the colony up to the present time we doubt whether mention could be found of even one accident caused by the absence of such lights. In the early days of the colony when the public lighting of the streets was either non-existent or in a very primitive condition no one thought of moving about at night, either in chair or on foot, without lights, but as the public lighting improved the necessity for carrying private lights diminished, and now it is the exception rather than the rule for private chairs to carry lights unless they are being used for journeys beyond the city limits. The lights when carried are for the convenience of the occupant and the bearers and not for traffic considerations, for in the districts where chairs are used, with one or two exceptions, there is no wheeled traffic, and the danger of collision between two chairs is of too attenuated a character to legitimately excite the concern of our legislators. On the short stretch of Queen's Road and the roads leading to the Club and the wharves, where private chairs may be seen in the evening, the illumination is sufficiently bright to render the carrying of private lights unnecessary, either for the protection of the persons using the chairs or for the convenience of the traffic in general.

A little consideration of how the law will work will show its undesirability. A man living say on the Robinson Road level goes to his office in his chair and returns at seven or half-past seven in the evening; the lights have been forgotten, as they are very apt to be at noonday, and the result is that for riding in a chair without a lantern along roads illuminated with the electric light and Welsbach burners he may, either with or without any warrant, be lawfully stopped, seized, apprehended, and detained by any police constable and thereupon taken before a Police Magistrate to be dealt with according to law. If the

enactment goes into operation we fancy that even H.E. the Governor may very often render himself liable to be lawfully stopped, seized, apprehended, and detained, and thereupon to be taken before a Police Magistrate. Probably, however, ladies will be the greatest sinners against the law. If they go to a tea party or bathing party, do not return until after sunset, and have forgotten to order lanterns, they also will be liable to be lawfully stopped, seized, apprehended, and detained, and thereupon to be taken before a Police Magistrate to be dealt with according to law? In the summer evenings private chairs may be seen by the score waiting for their owners' return from bathing parties, not one of them provided with lights, although it is generally after sunset before the launches return. It would cause a little commotion if all the ladies of a bathing party upon getting into their chairs were lawfully stopped, seized, apprehended and detained, and thereupon taken before a Police Magistrate. There is this difference between the law as to carrying lights on wheeled vehicles and the law as to carrying lights on private chairs, that in the one case the law only requires a person to do what his own common sense and prudence should dictate even if the law were non-existent, and that in the other it imposes an obligation which is unnecessary. In the case of street chairs the compulsory carrying of lamps may be advisable from a police point of view, but that consideration does not apply to private chairs. The owners of the latter might reasonably be trusted to carry lights when they are required and be allowed to do without them when they are unnecessary.

#### THE SHANGHAI FIRE BRIGADE.

(Daily Press, 3rd February.)

In view of the increasing frequency of fires at Shanghai the Fire Insurance Association of that port recently addressed the Municipal Council requesting that body to call the attention of the Chinese authorities to the inadequate sentences imposed in arson cases and also to appoint a Committee to report on such remedial measures as they might deem effective for the strengthening of the Fire Brigade. These requests have been complied with by the Council. The Committee appointed to report with reference to the Fire Brigade might perhaps do worse than take a trip to Hongkong to examine on the spot the organisation and equipment of our local Fire Brigade. There was a time in this colony when fires were alarmingly frequent and very destructive in their effects. All that has been altered and there are now probably few places which in proportion to their size possess better appliances and organisation for the prevention and extinction of fires than Hongkong. The crime of arson was checked by the skill of the detective service in bringing home the crime and by the infliction of exemplary sentences by the Supreme Court. Yet it may be doubted whether the convictions obtained have in themselves had such a deterrent effect as the difficulty now experienced of getting a fire well under way before the firemen arrive and put it out, with the consequent risk of the evidences of arson being discovered if such a crime has been attempted. The majority of fires are now extinguished in their incipient stage, and where that is not the case it is seldom that much of the surrounding property beyond the house in which the outbreak occurs becomes involved. "In view of the constantly increasing tax on the

"time and energies of the Fire Brigade arising from the continuous increase of life and property to be protected in these Settlements," to quote the words of the Shanghai Fire Insurance Association's resolution, it may possibly be deemed advisable to replace the present Volunteer Fire Brigade at Shanghai by a paid Municipal Brigade. It is now some years since the Hongkong Volunteer Fire Brigade was dissolved, and except possibly on social and sentimental grounds there has never been any occasion to regret the step. Volunteer brigades are useful in small places which cannot support a permanent paid force, but in large cities it is more advisable that the work of extinguishing fires should be confided to a thoroughly disciplined, organised, and adequately paid brigade. In the first three weeks of the present year no less than thirteen fires occurred at Shanghai resulting in an estimated loss of Tls. 120,000. The annual cost of the Hongkong Fire Brigade is about \$30,000, an expenditure which cannot but be regarded as a sound investment. It was not on the question of efficiency that the Hongkong Volunteer Fire Brigade was disbanded, however, but because in view of the increasing demands made upon its services employers raised objections to their staff belonging to it. Men cannot be employed all night at a fire and be expected to be ready for office work next morning. Considerations of this character must apply at Shanghai as forcibly as at Hongkong.

#### HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

On 1st February a meeting of the Hongkong Legislative Council was held in the Council Chamber at the Government Offices, there being present:—

His EXCELLENCY the GOVERNOR, Sir Henry BLAKE, G.C.M.G.

His EXCELLENCY Major-General GASCOIGNE, C.M.G. (Officer Commanding the Troops).

Hon. T. SEECOMBE SMITH (Acting Colonial Secretary).

Hon. H. E. POLLOCK (Acting Attorney-General).

Hon. R. MURRAY RUMSEY (Harbour Master).

Hon. F. H. MAY, C.M.G. (Captain Superintendent of Police).

Hon. A. M. THOMSON (Acting Colonial Treasurer).

Hon. R. D. OMSBY (Director of Public Works).

Hon. C. P. CHATER, C.M.G.

Hon. Dr. HO KAI.

Hon. E. R. BELLIOS, C.M.G.

Hon. J. J. BELL-LEVING.

Hon. WEI A YUK.

Mr. F. G. T. BUCKLE (Clerk of Councils).

#### MINUTES.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and adopted as a correct record.

#### THE PROPOSED NEW GOVERNMENT BUILDING.

Hon. E. R. BELLIOS—Your Excellency, I beg to give notice that at the next meeting of the Legislative Council I intend to ask the following questions:—(1) Will the Government state why, as the sites for the proposed new Law Courts and new Post Office have been selected, and the plans of the former, at any rate, have been considered, steps are not taken to carry the proposals into effect? (2) Will the Government state whether the Secretary of State for the Colonies has sanctioned the scheme for the new public buildings above mentioned just put before him by the Government?

His EXCELLENCY—I do not think you can submit the first question, because I think you will see if you refer to "Parliamentary Practice" that it is hardly in order. The question asks for an opinion. You can ask a question of fact, but when you ask why a certain thing has not been done, I do not think that can be put to the Government. The second question is quite in order. I should suggest that the other question should be remodelled into a resolution.



Hon. E. R. BELLIOS—Your Excellency, I might amend the question by striking out the word "why." It is immaterial whether the word "why" is there or not.

HIS EXCELLENCY—I am afraid you will find it difficult to delete the word without altering the question. You can consider the matter and put it in some other form.

Hon. C. P. CHATER—Your Excellency, the hon. member can two days previous to any meeting send in notice of question.

HIS EXCELLENCY—This is not a matter of notice. It is a matter as to the form of the question. The form of the question, as you will observe, is a matter of opinion—why the Government has not done this, that, or the other thing. I think the question must be as to a matter of fact.

Hon. C. P. CHATER—I bow to your ruling. Perhaps I did not express myself properly. I meant that the hon. member could alter his question so as to bring it within the rules, and put it in two days before the meeting.

Hon. E. R. BELLIOS—Your Excellency, if I read the question in the following manner probably it would suit your Excellency's views:—"Will the Government state whether or not the sites for the proposed new Law Courts and new Post Office have been selected, and the plans of the former, at any rate, have been considered, why steps are not taken to carry the proposals into effect?"

HIS EXCELLENCY—The first part is quite in order. If the hon. member will consider the matter while the proceedings are going on, he will be able to get it amended.

Subsequently Mr. BELLIOS having re-drafted his questions got up to read them, but

HIS EXCELLENCY remarked—It is not necessary when giving notice of question to read the question. It is the usual custom in Parliament simply to hand in the question, and then these matters can be settled with the clerk.

#### THE FINANCE REPORT.

The report of the Finance Committee (No. 1) was laid on the table and adopted, on the motion of the ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY, seconded by the ACTING COLONIAL TREASURER.

#### THE LAW RELATING TO PRISONS.

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL—I beg leave to move the first reading of a Bill entitled an Ordinance to amend and consolidate the law relating to Prisons. As I shall have at the next meeting of the Council to move some amendments in committee, and as it is very desirable that the new rules and regulations under this Bill should be passed very shortly, I propose to indicate to honourable members the amendments which I shall have to move in committee. In the last line of section 4 "The Ordinance" ought to read "This Ordinance," and in clause 5 it seems to me, subject to the opinion of honourable members, that the words "appointed thereto under the provisions of this Ordinance," words which are in section 4 of Ordinance 18 of 1885, are superfluous. Then in clause 13 instead of "the regulations of a prison" I think the words "prison rules or regulations" would be appropriate, and in line 4 of clause 13 I think "rules" instead of "regulations" would be the proper word to use, or "rules or regulations." With regard to clause 17 of the Bill, that is a clause which honourable members will have to consider very carefully. It has been copied verbatim from section 16 of Ordinance 18 of 1885. It seems to me that the clause is unnecessary, that it has no real significance, and may be liable to misconstruction, and I think that at the next meeting of the Council honourable members will have to consider whether clause 17 cannot be taken out of the Bill altogether. In clause 18 of the Bill instead of saying "Every warder or other subordinate prison officer" it would be sufficient to say "Every prison officer" and strike out the words "Warder or" in line 3 of that clause. I think these are all the amendments so far as I know which I propose to move in committee at the next meeting of the Council and I hope that in the meantime honourable members will consider the points I have indicated. There is another point which the Colonial Secretary reminds me of. Section 19 refers to making rules as to the remission of a portion of the sentence passed upon

prisoners. Some question has been raised as to whether that would or would not infringe upon the prerogative of the Crown, because the Governor has by letters patent in this colony power to remit sentences. I must say that it seems to me, so far as I have gone into the matter, that such a provision in clause 19 of the Bill would not infringe upon the prerogative of the Governor to remit sentences, because the provisions of the rules and regulations in regard to the remission of sentences simply and solely relate to a prisoner being able by good conduct to obtain automatically, so to speak, the remission of his sentence. Of course that is a point perhaps which honourable members would like to consider between this and the next meeting of the Council. It seems to me so far as I have gone into the matter that there is no difficulty of that sort. With these remarks I beg leave to move the first reading of the Bill.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was carried.

#### NATURALISATION.

The Bill entitled an Ordinance for the Naturalization of Mak Ngan Wan, alias Mak Chin K'i, alias Mak Sui Nin, alias Mak Yat Wo, alias Mak Sun, was read a second time.

#### THE HONGKONG BANK NOTE ISSUE.

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL—I beg leave to move the second reading of the Bill entitled an Ordinance to amend Ordinance 5 of 1866 and the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank Ordinance Amendment Ordinance, 1882. Honourable members will remember that early in the year 1898 Ordinance No. 6 of 1898 was passed authorising an excess note issue by the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation. On the Ordinance being sent home the Secretary of State came to the conclusion that it was incomplete in two respects, which are mentioned in the objects and reasons at the foot of the Bill, namely:—(1) That it does not embody the arrangement which was made with the Bank in 1889 with regard to the security for its ordinary note issue, and (2) That it does not provide with sufficient clearness that the deposit which is required in respect of the excess note issue is to be under the custody of the Colonial Secretary and the Colonial Treasurer and not under that of the Bank." I beg to move the second reading of the Bill.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded and the motion was carried.

The Council then went into committee to consider the Bill clause by clause. No alterations were made, and on the Council resuming, the Bill was read a third time and passed, on the motion of the ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL, seconded by the ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY.

#### THE PUBLIC BUILDINGS ORDINANCE.

On the motion of the ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL, seconded by the ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY, the second reading of the Bill entitled an Ordinance to amend Ordinance 8 of 1870 (Public Buildings) was passed.

The Council then went into committee to consider the Bill clause by clause and no alterations being made, on the Council resuming, the Bill was read a third time and passed, on the motion of the ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL, seconded by the ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY.

#### THE RESERVATION OF SUNG WONG TOI.

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL—I beg leave to move the second reading of the Bill entitled an Ordinance to provide for the reservation of certain land at British Kowloon known as Sung Wong Toi or Sung Wong Tong. As honourable members will see from the statement of the objects and reasons attached to the Bill, the object of this Bill is to preserve in perpetuity a very interesting monument at British Kowloon. It is a very celebrated rock with an historic inscription upon it. I beg to move the second reading of the Bill.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was carried.

The Council then went into committee to consider the Bill clause by clause, and no alterations being made, on the Council resuming the Bill was read a third time and passed, on the motion of the ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL, seconded by the ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY.

#### THE DOGS ORDINANCE.

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL—I beg leave to move the second reading of the Bill entitled an Ordinance to amend the Dogs Ordinance, 1893. As honourable members will see from the statement of the objects and reasons attached to this Bill, the object of the Bill is to enlarge the power to make regulations, which was originally conferred upon the Governor-in-Council by section 5 of Ordinance 9 of 1893, in such a way as to authorise the Governor-in-Council to make regulations relating to the importation of dogs. It seemed advisable at the same time to increase the maximum penalty which could be imposed under section 6 of that Ordinance from ten to one hundred dollars, which latter fine is the maximum laid down in the Singapore and Malacca Dog Regulations. It seemed also desirable to specify a maximum term of imprisonment in default of payment of the fine. I beg leave to move the second reading.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was carried.

The Council then went into committee to consider the Bill clause by clause, and no alterations being made, on the Council resuming the Bill was read a third time and passed, on the motion of the ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL, seconded by the ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY.

#### THE REGULATION OF VEHICLES.

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL—I beg leave to move the second reading of the Bill entitled an Ordinance for the Regulation of Vehicles. Honourable members will see that the object of this Bill is to lay down the rule of the road in this colony. Section 3 provides for the ordinary rule of the road for vehicles; section 4 provides for the ordinary rule of the road for a passing vehicle; and section 5 deals with the carrying of lights. It may be noted with regard to section 5 that this legislation applies to private vehicles as well as to public vehicles, and I think that honourable members of the Council will agree with me when I say it is equally necessary that private vehicles should carry lights as well as public vehicles. With regard to clause 6 of the Bill, I propose to move in committee an amendment in line one, inserting the word "pusher" between the words "drawer" and "rider." That will make clause 6 in conformity with clause 5, which speaks of a person "driving, drawing, pushing, riding," etc. Honourable members will see that clause 6 provides that no person shall by negligence or wilful misbehaviour cause any hurt or damage to any person, horse, cattle, or goods conveyed in any vehicles passing or being upon any street or road, or if the vehicle be drawn by a horse or other animal shall negligently or wilfully be at such distance from such vehicle or in such a situation whilst it shall be passing upon such street or road that he cannot have the direction and government of the horse or animal drawing the same, or shall leave any vehicle drawn by a horse or other animal unattended in any street or road or at any place of public resort or entertainment, whether such vehicle shall be hired or not, or shall leave any vehicle on such street or road so as to obstruct the passage thereof. Clause 7 gives power to the Governor in Council to make bye-laws. In clause 8 I propose to make an amendment in line 4 by substituting for the word "person" the words "any member of the police force." I think honourable members will probably agree that it would be undesirable to give to any person, whoever he might be, the power of arresting any other person with or without warrant. With regard to the latter part of clause 8, that is taken from the Highways Act at home, which enables the Police Magistrate if a person refuses to disclose his name "to proceed against him by a description of his person and the offence only without adding any name or designation." In clause 9 the Bill provides a penalty for a breach of the Ordinance or any bye-law made under it. I beg to move the second reading of the Bill.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was carried.

The Council then went into committee to consider the Bill clause by clause.

When they came to clause 6 the HARBOUR MASTER suggested that the words "if the vehicle be drawn by a horse or other animal" and the words "the horse or animal drawing,"



should be deleted so that persons in charge of vehicles other than those drawn by horses might be included.

The CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE did not agree with the suggestion. He added that the vehicles referred to were trucks and trollies, which were sometimes laden with loads which were light but bulky, and it was really an impossibility that every person behind such a vehicle should have the view of what was directly in front.

The HARBOUR MASTER—The Honourable Captain Superintendent of Police is quite right in saying I refer chiefly to trollies. I think they are most dangerous. I come across them near my office on a steep hill with a load probably some eight feet above the wheels. The trolley is guided by a man who is behind and who cannot possibly see where he is going. It is drawn by six or eight men with ropes, who do not care how the thing goes. They let it go down as it pleases, and I think that is a great danger.

His EXCELLENCY—As a matter of fact do these men who pull at the rope let it run down-hill?

The HARBOUR MASTER—They do not guide it. It is left with the man behind, who cannot see where it goes to. Sometimes a man walks by the side and directs the man behind.

The CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE—As a matter of fact, in compiling my official report last year I looked through the records of accidents caused by trollies and other vehicles in the streets, and I think there are less of such accidents in this city than there are in any other city of the same size. The accidents caused by trollies last year reached the "large" total of two.

His EXCELLENCY put the matter to the vote with the result that four (Major-General Goscoigne, the Hon. Wei A Yuk, the Hon. E. R. Bellicos, and the Harbour Master) voted for the words in question to be left out, the rest of the Council (with the exception of His Excellency, who did not vote) being against.

With regard to the amendment proposed by the Attorney-General to clause 8—substituting for the word "person" the words "member of the police force"—some objection was raised by the ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY and Dr. Ho Kai.

His EXCELLENCY—I have just been asking the Attorney-General what has been the common practice here. It strikes me that if a man does you a personal damage you have the right to detain him until a policeman comes. Otherwise a man might take my coat and tear it up and walk away because there was no policeman standing by.

The CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE—I think it will be better for the clause to read "any member of the police force." It will be much safer.

The HARBOUR MASTER—I suggest it should be "any police officer on his own observation or on the application of any person who shall see the offence committed."

His EXCELLENCY (to the Captain Superintendent of Police)—Would it not be the duty of the constable to detain any person and get his name and address in the case of any complaint being made to him?

The CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE—Yes, sir, it would.

His EXCELLENCY—Then what is the necessity of this?

The Hon. Dr. Ho Kai suggested that the amendment should be withdrawn.

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL—I do not think I should withdraw the amendment; it would be dangerous.

The CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE—In the existing law dealing with vehicles and so forth—14 of 1845—the power is vested in the police officers of the colony. If a man is knocked down by a ricksha he accompanies the coolie to the nearest constable and gives him into custody. I do not think any necessity has yet arisen or been shown for giving these exceptional powers to the general public, and I think it is undesirable in this colony, where you have a large number of nationalities, and especially some who are by no means disinclined to exercise a good deal more power than they have any right to. I refer to the Chinese, who are very fond of taking upon themselves power which really belongs to the police.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY—I suggest we should delete the words "any person who shall see such offence committed" and substitute "any member of the police force."

This was agreed to and the Bill passed through the committee stage.

#### THE LAW RELATING TO SOLICITORS.

The second reading of the Bill entitled An Ordinance to amend the law relating to Solicitors of the Supreme Court was on the Orders of the Day, but the ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL asked that it might be postponed so that he might consider certain suggestions made by the Judges of the Supreme Court which had been handed to him only the day before.

#### ADJOURNMENT.

The Council then adjourned until Wednesday, February 8th.

### SUPREME COURT.

30th January.

#### IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR JOHN CARRINGTON (CHIEF JUSTICE) AND A SPECIAL JURY.

#### HOK V. BELICOS.

In this case (adjourned from December 6th) A Hok, of 23, D'Aguilar Street, contractor, sought to recover from the Hon. E. R. Bellicos the sum of \$11,200, being the balance of money due for work done and materials provided by the plaintiff on a building belonging to the defendant which is known as Beaconsfield, lately in the occupation of Messrs. Butterfield and Swire.

The following are the issues:—

1.—(a) Did the defendant agree with the Government to put Beaconsfield in thorough repair and to make all such alterations in it as the Government might require to fit it for the use of certain departments of the Government? or

(b) Did defendant agree with the Government to put Beaconsfield in tenable repair, and to make certain definite alterations therein which had already been pointed out and agreed on?

2. If the latter, was the expenditure on the said repairs and alterations limited by the defendant to a sum of \$6,000 or thereabouts, and if so was such limit assented to by the Government?

3.—If the agreement between the defendant and the Government was in the first instance limited as to the extent of the repairs and alterations (as in issue No. 1 b), or as to the amount of expenditure thereon (as in issue No. 2), or in both such respects, did the defendant by his subsequent conduct cause the Public Works Department or the plaintiff reasonably to believe, and did the said Department or the plaintiff so believe, that the defendant had waived his right to insist on such limitation in both or either of such respects?

4.—Did the defendant, either expressly or impliedly, agree to pay for repairs and alterations according to the scale of charges for such work subsisting between the Government and the contractors?

5.—(a) Did the defendant, either expressly or impliedly, authorize the Public Works Department to enter into any contract in his name or on his behalf with the plaintiff or with any other person to execute repairs and alterations to Beaconsfield, or

(b) Did the defendant only authorize the Public Works Department, by themselves, their servants or agents, to execute repairs and alterations to Beaconsfield?

6. (a) Did the Public Works Department through one William Chatham, an officer of such department, employ the plaintiff to execute repairs and alterations to Beaconsfield in the name or on behalf of the defendant? or

(b) Did the Public Works Department through the said William Chatham direct the plaintiff to execute repairs and alterations to Beaconsfield on behalf of the Department as their employé?

7.—Was the plaintiff at the date of the commencement of the repairs and alterations to Beaconsfield in the employ of the Public Works Department as their contractor to execute repairs and alterations to public buildings?

8.—Was the said William Chatham the authorized agent of the defendant to issue certificates to the plaintiff in respect of work done on Beaconsfield so as to bind defendant by such certificates?

9.—Is the defendant estopped by his payment to the plaintiff of \$6,500 on a certificate issued by the said William Chatham from denying

(a) That the plaintiff was employed in his name on his behalf.

(b) That the said William Chatham was entitled to give certificates in favour of the plaintiff so as to bind the defendant, or

(c) That the authority given to the Public Works Department was exceeded.

10.—Were the repairs and alterations to Beaconsfield in excess of those authorized by the defendant, and if so to what extent?

11.—Were the repairs and alterations to Beaconsfield carried out in an unnecessarily expensive manner and with unnecessarily expensive materials, and if so what is the extra cost thereby occasioned?

12.—(a) Were the repairs and alterations to Beaconsfield completed on or about the 19th day of January, 1898, as is alleged by the defendant in his answer? or

(b) Were the said repairs and alterations completed on or about the beginning of March, 1898, as is alleged by the plaintiff in his petition?

13.—Did the plaintiff execute repairs and alterations to Beaconsfield to the value of \$17,000, and is a balance of \$11,200 or some other and what sum due by the defendant to the plaintiff, in respect thereof.

Mr. Pollock (Acting Attorney-General), instructed by Mr. H. L. Denny, appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. Francis Q. C. (instructed by Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist) for the defendant.

The following composed the special jury:—

Messrs. R. Marten (foreman), H. M. Mahta, J. S. Van Buren, Walter Poate, W. R. Loxley, W. Hutton Potts, and C. A. Jones.

Mr. Pollock said that in view of the long adjournment of the case it would be convenient if he started from the beginning of the action, although the jury might possibly have to a certain extent in their minds something of what he said to them in his previous opening. In August 1897, Mr. Bellicos, who was then about to lose his old tenants of Beaconsfield, Messrs. Butterfield and Swire, was anxious to get the Government to be his tenants, is Beaconsfield. In the first instance he approached the Government through Mr. Stephens, solicitor, writing to Mr. Lockhart, Colonial Secretary, proposing a rental of \$400 a month, pointing out that Beaconsfield would be suitable for the use and occupation of certain Government departments, and attempting to show that that would be an economical arrangement for the Government and obviate the necessity of erecting expensive public offices. In answer to that letter Mr. Lockhart wrote on the 4th September declining the offer. Mr. Bellicos was apparently anxious to get the Government as tenants of Beaconsfield, for they found him again instructing Mr. Stephens to communicate with the Government. On September 7th, 1897, Mr. Stephens again wrote Mr. Lockhart, the following words occurring in this letter, "I am to add that Mr. Bellicos will cause the house to be thoroughly done up both inside and out and adapted to the purpose required."

That was an important clause for the jury to bear in mind, because there was a suggestion made by defendant in his answer that the premises were to be put merely into a state of tenable repair; but they would see that quite early in the correspondence Mr. Bellicos agreed that the premises should be thoroughly done up both inside and out—not merely put into a state of tenable repair—and also adapted to the purpose required. On the 1st of October, 1897, Mr. Chatham wrote saying that he had visited Beaconsfield with Mr. Lockhart and others and that it would probably suit the Government to take it on a lease for three years with the option of renewal. Mr. Chatham added that it was the subject of general remark that the building was very much out of repair and would require a great deal done to it. Ultimately an agreement was come to between the defendant and the Government for the lease by the defendant to the Government for three years of Beaconsfield.



commencing from the 1st January, 1898, upon the following terms:—"That Beaconsfield shall be put into a state of thorough repair at the expense of Mr. Belilios, and that such alterations and additions shall be made to Beaconsfield as are required by the Government for making Beaconsfield suitable for Government offices." It was also agreed that Mr. Chatham should employ a Government contractor on behalf of Mr. Belilios to carry out the necessary repairs, alterations, and to do everything which was necessary to adapt the buildings as Government offices. It was also agreed that Mr. Belilios should pay for the work according to the scale of charges usually paid to the Government contractors, and it was further arranged that Mr. Chatham should supervise the execution of this work on behalf of Mr. Belilios as his agent and architect, and that he should receive a commission of 5 per cent. upon the amount which the work cost for supervising the work on behalf of Mr. Belilios. The plaintiff did that work and provided such materials, and sent in a bill for \$17,700, the amount having been reduced to that sum at the request of Mr. Chatham. The plaintiff had already received \$6,500 from the defendant on account on the 18th of January, and that reduced the sum to \$11,200, which the plaintiff was suing for in this suit. Mr. Danby had estimated the cost of the alterations at \$4,000 or thereabouts and the cost of the repairs at about \$2,000, but this estimate of Mr. Danby's was wide of the mark. As a matter of fact it was impossible until the beams came to be removed and a thorough inspection took place to estimate the cost of the work. This building dated back for several years—some 30 or 40 years—and it was found to be in a very rotten state. Accordingly Mr. Chatham wrote in reply that he had not made any estimate of the cost and that he would not be bound by any estimate of Mr. Danby. Defendant's story was that these works were carried out by the Public Works Department at their own risk and at their own expense, and that Mr. Belilios's only obligation was to repay the sum expended to the extent of some \$2,000 or thereabouts for alterations and repairs and \$4,000 or thereabouts for the alterations required to adapt the building for Government purposes.

Mr. Francis suggested that Mr. Pollock should be asked to state correctly what the defence was. Mr. Belilios had never attempted to state that the work was not being done by the Public Works Department on his behalf. The point was as to what extent the Government were entitled to commit Mr. Belilios.

Mr. Pollock proceeded to deal further with the correspondence, and the further hearing was adjourned.

#### 31st January.

Tsan Tsang, who carries on business in the name of A Hok, and who gave evidence the previous day, was cross-examined by Mr. Francis. He said his father died 12 years ago. He left a will and he took out probate. His brothers were not partners with him. He was a carpenter himself, but he knew all about building. He began house building after the death of his father. He took over his father's business. He daily superintended the work carried out at Beaconsfield at the end of 1897 and the beginning of 1898. Mr. Gowanloch superintended the work for the Public Works Department. Mr. Chatham first spoke to him on the matter on the 6th of November, 1897. He subsequently got his instructions from both Mr. Chatham and Mr. Gowanloch, both seeing him almost daily. He did not send in any bill before the completion of the work in March of last year, when he sent in his first detailed bill. While the work was in progress the quantity of work done up to any particular date was calculated. Measurements were taken several times. As each portion was done a measurement was taken, the object being to have it recorded, and then when all was completed it could be totalled up. At each measurement the price was calculated according to the schedule, and all this was recorded at the time. The measurements were taken by Mr. Gowanloch, Mr. Chatham being sometimes present during a portion of the time a measurement was taken. His books would simply show the measurements and the quantity of work done. He looked up the price according to the schedule,

but did not put it down in his book. He could not tell by looking at his book what quantity of work was done up to a particular date. He did not think Mr. Gowanloch's book would tell either. It was not true that the work was not measured up until it was all finished. He could not remember any single date when the work was measured up. He had never done any work for Mr. Belilios. He had never tendered for any work which Mr. Belilios required doing. He never said to Mr. Chatham, when the latter told him to go to Mr. Belilios for money, that he did not care to do so as Mr. Belilios would beat him down. The roof was finished in December, but he had no note of it. By the end of December over \$10,000 worth of work had been done, reckoning labour and materials. All the heavy work was done by that time. The interior was only partly done. He told Mr. Chatham at the China New Year that the value of the work then done was over and above \$10,000. He kept the books of Hok's firm. He opened a new set of books at China New Year, but he did not carry the accounts forward. The value of the work done up to China New Year was between \$13,000 and \$15,000. He asked Mr. Chatham to let him have \$10,000. When he was told about the work in November, 1897, he went over the building but he did not give any estimate. Mr. Gowanloch did not say it was a \$6,000 job. He simply told him he must do what he was told.

In reply to the Court witness said Mr. Chatham was satisfied with the quality of the work done. Defendant had never complained to him about the work.

William Chatham, assistant director of the Public Works Department, said that from the 6th of May to October 21st, 1897, he was acting as Director of Public Works. It was in August, 1897, that the suggestion was made on behalf of defendant to the Government that the latter should rent Beaconsfield. Finally about the 5th of November there was a letter written by Mr. Ormsby in answer to one from Mr. Belilios with reference to the Government taking Beaconsfield over on lease. The agreement was that Beaconsfield should be put in thorough repair and that alterations should be made to adapt Beaconsfield for Government offices. Mr. Belilios wrote him in October, 1897, enclosing a report made by Mr. Danby, subsequently writing again stating that in his opinion Mr. Danby's estimate was excessive and with good management could be reduced. Witness called on Mr. Belilios and told him that if he were to supervise the work on his behalf he would not be bound by any estimate put forward by Mr. Danby. He himself had not made any estimate of the cost of the repairs and alterations. It was agreed that the repairs and alterations should be paid for at the usual rate paid to Government contractors. Before witness began to act for Mr. Belilios Mr. Danby was acting for him as his architect. It was arranged that witness should be paid at the rate of 5 per cent. on the cost of the alterations. It must have been about the 6th or 7th of November when he first spoke to plaintiff about the work. He went over the building on the 5th of November with his overseer, Mr. Gowanloch, and gave him instructions to start A Hok. The work was carried on with the utmost expedition. The men worked very late. The Sanitary Board occupied the rooms prepared for them at Beaconsfield on the 1st of January. They occupied part of the top storey. Then the Registrar-General's department, which occupied the entire floor below, moved in on the 1st February, and the Education Department moved into the remainder of the top floor at about the 7th of March, when the entire work which was being done to Beaconsfield by A Hok was about finished. There was some work done by another contractor some few days after. With regard to the nature and extent of the repairs to Beaconsfield, when witness called upon Mr. Belilios and told him he would not be bound by Mr. Danby's estimate Mr. Belilios told him he would give him carte blanche; he could do what he liked. On the 20th January, 1898, he went with Mr. Belilios to look over Beaconsfield. As a matter of fact Mr. Belilios did not go into every room. It would scarcely have been possible for him to go into every room as he would have had to go over joists and temporary boards. There were three or four

rooms in that condition. He pointed out to Mr. Belilios that teak floors had been put in and he raised no objection. He said, however, that there would be a good deal more to pay and witness replied that he could not tell him how much. Mr. Belilios expressed satisfaction with the way the work had been done. He said it was a good job. Mr. Belilios asked him to see about a trowel and mallet in connection with the laying of the stone of the reformatory and to get anything else which was required in connection with the function to be performed by the Governor. On the 25th of January Mr. Belilios called upon him and drove him down to the site of the reformatory at Causeway Bay. On that occasion some mention was made of Beaconsfield, but Mr. Belilios never expressed any dissatisfaction with it—quite the reverse. First of all A Hok sent in a bill for \$20,000 odd, two items being put in on account of the extra price of the timber. These items, however, witness disallowed. As a matter of fact he afterwards made out a bill of \$17,700 as due to A Hok. He was satisfied that A Hok had done work on Beaconsfield and supplied materials to the value of \$17,700. He had a lot of trouble to get A Hok to agree to the reduction. He gave A Hok a certificate for \$11,200 to take to Mr. Belilios—\$6,500 having been already paid. He employed A Hok on behalf of Mr. Belilios. As far as he was concerned he clearly considered he was authorised by Mr. Belilios to employ A Hok and also to see that any repairs and alterations which he considered necessary were carried out. The work was substantially done, but there was no unnecessary expense; there was nothing in the way of ornamental work. Mr. Gowanloch, his overseer, took measurements from time to time. He found out on making up his account that Mr. Gowanloch had put down everything. When the alterations were commenced the wood work was found to be in a very rotten condition. This could not have been fully ascertained when Mr. Danby made his estimate. There was no contract made out for this work with A Hok, as this would have delayed the work and there was not a day to lose. He never mentioned Mr. Danby's estimate to A Hok and never suggested to A Hok that there might be a limit to the amount to be expended on Beaconsfield. He did not consider himself that there had been any limit.

In reply to Mr. Francis witness said that when measurements were taken Mr. Gowanloch supplied him with the details. He had no record which would show the quantity of work done by any particular date.

The further hearing was adjourned.

#### 1st February.

Mr. Francis continued his cross-examination of Mr. Chatham, Assistant Director of Public Works, who in reply to questions said it was in the forenoon when he and Mr. Belilios visited Beaconsfield on the 20th January, 1898. As re-arranged the top floor contained seven rooms. At the time of their visit two of these rooms were not finished, and they did not look into them. The only reference to extra expenditure which he remembered was when Mr. Belilios remarked, on their going through the building, that there would be a good deal more to pay and witness replied that he could not tell how much. He did not remember telling him that there would be a considerable amount more to pay. He had no recollection of ever giving Mr. Belilios the vaguest intimation as what the extra expense would be. Altogether the repairs and alterations, etc., would cost Mr. Belilios \$19,600. It had never struck him as possible that if by the end of November Mr. Belilios had found out that he was likely to be landed into considerable expense he would have refused to go on with the work. It was he who pointed out to Mr. Danby what alterations the Government required to be made. He read over the report subsequently sent in by Mr. Danby, which report dealt with all the alterations mentioned by him to Mr. Danby and estimated the cost at \$6,000.

The further hearing was adjourned.

#### 2nd February.

The case for the plaintiff having been closed Mr. Francis opened for the defence, speaking at considerable length on the different issues placed before the jury. He contended there



was no contract made between the Public Works Department and A Hok on Mr. Belilios's behalf. They simply gave A Hok the order as their own contractor to go and do the work just the same as if it had been any other public building. A Hok accepted the order and supplied materials and did the work. Eighty or 90 per cent. of the entire work was finished and materials supplied before A Hok heard that Mr. Belilios was responsible for the payment. Therefore he did not do the work either on the order of Mr. Belilios or relying upon him for payment, nor did he in his books debit Mr. Belilios for the work done and the goods supplied. The case for A Hok was that the Public Works Department had authority to contract with him for repairs and alterations to the building to any extent to which repairs might be required. Plaintiff did not claim that the Government were authorised to contract with him to the extent of \$6,000 and any reasonable amount over that Mr. Chatham clearly admitted that the building could have been put in thorough repair in the ordinary sense with the same material and in the same fashion as it was originally built. They knew it had been repaired in a far superior manner. He contended that it was absolutely admitted that the repairs were carried out in an unnecessarily expensive manner.

Mr. Belilios, on being sworn, said he remembered going over Beaconsfield with Mr. Chatham on January 20th, 1898. The top floor was then in tenable state and could have been occupied. It was the same with the first floor, but the ground floor was not quite finished. Mr. Chatham said nothing whatever to him on that occasion as to how the repairs had been executed and as to what the cost would be. When he expressed astonishment at the teak flooring Mr. Chatham said he had intended covering the whole with teak flooring but wood was scarce and the price had gone up. He (Mr. Belilios) had never intended that teak floors should be put in, and that was the first time he knew teak floors had been put in. He never received any letter from Mr. Chatham in regard to the cost incurred, and the first intimation he had that the amount he had intended expending had been exceeded was in April, when a certificate for \$1,000 was presented to him. He refused to pay the money and when he saw Mr. Chatham a day or two afterwards he told him that he had refused to pay the money as the estimate had been exceeded. Mr. Chatham on that occasion did not give him to understand that there was anything else to pay besides this \$1,000. He did not say anything to him to prepare him for A Hok's claim. Mr. Chatham recommended him to pay the \$1,000 and apply to the Government for a little extra rent, but he refused to agree to this. Mr. Chatham never while the work was in progress informed him that he was making alterations other than those mentioned in Mr. Danby's report or that Mr. Danby's estimate would be exceeded.

On being cross-examined by Mr. Pollock, Mr. Belilios said he did not raise any objection to paying A Hok \$6,500 on account when Mr. Chatham's certificate for that amount was presented to him. When he visited Beaconsfield on January 20th with Mr. Chatham he remarked when he noticed the teak wood flooring that the cost would exceed the amount he had intended spending. Mr. Chatham said yes but when he asked him how much he said he did not know. Mr. Chatham told him he could not say who was to pay the extra expense and advised him to see Mr. Lockhart. Accordingly he saw Mr. Lockhart shortly afterwards and told him he understood from Mr. Chatham that the amount he had promised to expend had been exceeded and added, "Remember, I am not going to pay a cent over and above what I promised to spend. Who is going to pay for this?" Mr. Lockhart replied, "I will look up the correspondence." He did not ask Mr. Chatham on the 20th January the price of the work and materials put into Beaconsfield up to then.

The hearing was further adjourned.

The directors of the Shanghai Land Investment Co., Limited, have decided to propose at the annual general meeting a final dividend for 1898 of 6 per cent. making 10½ per cent. for the year.

### THE GERMAN EMPEROR'S BIRTHDAY.

#### SERVICE IN ST. JOHN'S CATHEDRAL.

The 27th Jan. being the birthday of His Imperial Majesty the Emperor William II. of Germany a special German service was held in the morning in St. John's Cathedral, which had been placed at the disposal of the German authorities for the occasion. Their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess Henry of Prussia were present, also H.E. the Governor and Lady Blake, Admiral Diedrichs (who on landing at Murray Pier was received by a guard of honour of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers), Major-General and Mrs. Gascoigne, and Rear-Admiral and Mrs. Holland. The Right Rev. Bishop of Victoria occupied the Bishop's Throne. The nave and south transept were reserved for the men of the German fleet, the seats in the north transept being public, but they were far from sufficient to accommodate all who attended and many had to stand throughout the service. The chancel was occupied by a strong choir of male voices and the band from the *Deutschland*, under the conductorship of Herr Pollinger, Mr. A. G. Ward presiding at the organ. The service was conducted by the Rev. Pastor Kriele, who preached an eloquent sermon from the text "Then saith he unto them, Render therefore unto Cæsar the things which are Cæsar's; and unto God the things that are God's." (Matt. xxii: 21) The lesson was taken from Psalm xxi. v. 1-8. The following was the order of service:—

Organ, Opening Voluntary.

Hymn:

Lobe der Herren den m. ohtigen K. n. der Ehren  
Meine eliebete Seele, das ist mein Begehren.

Prayers.

Chorale, by Choir and Orchestra:

Grosser gott wir loben dich  
Herr wir preisen deine Starke.

Lesson.

Hymn:

Vater Krone du mit Segen  
Unsere König und ein Ha. s.

Sermon.

Organ and Orchestra—"Largo," Handel.

Prayers and Benediction.

Hymn:

Gieb uns Mut in den Gefahren  
Wo der Feind uns e-nst bedroht.

Organ, Closing Voluntary.

The service throughout was an exceedingly impressive one. Seldom has the Cathedral heard any finer rendering of instrumental music than Handel's Largo, played by the organ and orchestra of stringed instruments, the violin solo being taken by Herr Pollinger.

#### OTHER CELEBRATIONS.

The various men-of-war in harbour and several of the merchant ships were decorated in honour of the day and at noon the usual salutes were fired.

A special tiffin was held at the German Club, at which H.R.H. Prince Henry and Admiral Diedrichs and their respective staffs were present. Admiral Diedrichs, as the senior officer, proposed the Emperor's health. A telegram was sent to His Majesty conveying the congratulations of the German community and informing him that the day had been celebrated in Hongkong in the presence of H.R.H. Prince Henry.

In the evening celebrations were held on the various German men-of-war in harbour.

The French cruiser *Descartes* arrived at Foochow on the 19th January from Shanghai, bringing Mr. P. Claudel, who re-assumes charge of the French Consulate.

The French steamer *Maroc*, 2,000 tons, from Bordeaux, arrived at Hongay on the 15th January with a cargo of coal for the French fleet. In a paragraph with reference to this vessel the *Courrier d'Haiphong* says:—The *Maroc* was formerly the British and African Steam Navigation Company's steamer *Kinsembo*, which conveyed to Zululand the Prince Imperial Eugène Napoleon. By a delicate attention the cabin which the Prince Imperial occupied has not been touched. The furniture has been respected and it remains to-day the same as it was when it was used by the Prince. The *Maroc* will leave Hongay towards the end of the month. She has been chartered to take a cargo of rice from Saigon to Hongkong.

### SUICIDE AT YOKOHAMA.

#### MR. O. KEIL SHOTS HIMSELF.

[SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE "DAILY PRESS"]

YOKOHAMA, 31st January.

Mr. O. Keil, Secretary to the Chamber of Commerce, committed suicide this morning by shooting himself through the head with a revolver. It is believed that worry of business affairs caused him to commit the rash act.

### THE SHANGHAI DEFAUCATION CASE.

#### BURGOYNE FOUND GUILTY.

[SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE "DAILY PRESS"]

SHANGHAI, 31st January.

J. W. H. Burgoyne, charged with obtaining from the Russo-Chinese Bank the sum of Tls. 85,000 on false pretences, has been found guilty, but sentence is postponed pending the argument of a point of law on Saturday.

### THE HON. JOHN BARRETT ON THE EFFECTS OF THE LATE WAR.

On the 1st February the Hon. John Barrett, late United States Minister to Siam, delivered an address in the City Hall, at the special invitation and under the auspices of the Odd Volumes Society, on "The Situation in the Far East as affected by the results of the recent war." The audience, which was most appreciative, was one of the largest that ever assembled on such an occasion and completely filled the hall. It was thoroughly representative, including many ladies as well as the prominent Army, Navy, and Civil officials and leading business men. Mr. Barrett consented to deliver the address while passing through Hongkong en route home via India.

Mr. J. J. FRANCIS, Q.C., and President of the China Association, occupied the chair and in introducing the speaker referred to Mr. Barrett's qualifications to deal with the subject and to its great importance.

Mr. BARRETT, after a few introductory remarks in reply to the Chairman's speech, went on to say:—After having accepted and faithfully striven to comply with the invitations of the Oriental Society of Japan and the General Chamber of Commerce of Shanghai to address them on the Philippines and kindred subjects, it was my firm intention to speak no more in public until reaching England and America, where I must fill engagements made long ago. When, however, on arrival in Hongkong en route home via India I was unexpectedly honoured by the special request of the Odd Volumes Society to discuss "The situation in the Far East as affected by the results of the late war," I yielded, taking into consideration the standing and prominence of the organisation, its distinguished membership and patronage, and the vast interests which Hongkong, as the chief port not only of the Orient but of the entire Pacific, has at stake in the future adjustment—possibly readjustment—of international, commercial, and political relations in the Far East. I shall make no effort at oratory or rhetoric whatever, but confine myself to plain consideration of facts. While my humble opinions may have limited value and my knowledge of any general Asiatic subject may be circumscribed compared to the wisdom and experience of many of my hearers, it is barely possible that, having been a close observer of and to a small degree a participant in the remarkable train of incidents and events of the last eight months, supported by a zealous study of Oriental conditions during the past six years, I may be able to interest you for a few minutes and so successfully execute my responsible commission of the evening. The task imposed on me is not an easy one. The subject is still speculative. We do not yet know absolutely what are the actual results of the war. The treaty of peace upon which their complete definition depends is not yet ratified.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF THE TREATY IS NOT RATIFIED.

As all of you may not be entirely familiar with the requirements of the American constitution in the matter of treaties I would beg



to explain that the power of making and negotiating treaties rests in the hands of the President and of the Senate, the upper house of our National Congress. The President through his duly appointed representatives can draw up the document and sign it, but it is always subject to the approval of the Senate. But even then the road to ratification is not smooth. A two-thirds majority is required to pass the treaty. At present there are 83 Senators, or two each for the 44 States. If then 30 only of these 83 vote against ratification the treaty is sent back to the President and must be revised on lines usually recommended by the Senate. I am hopeful of the result on Monday, when the final vote will be taken, according to Reuter, but there is danger of defeat with the opposition straining every nerve to secure the necessary 50 votes. You will remember that when the proposed Arbitration Treaty between the United States and Great Britain failed of ratification a few years ago a large majority of the Senate was actually in its favour. Lest it might seem that it is a serious defect in the American system of Government that treaties can so easily fail of ratification, I would add that on the other hand it is an effectual safeguard against the hasty passing or rushing through of treaties that might eventually be most harmful or disgraceful or promoted by some party that at the moment was in control. If you should ask what will happen in the event the treaty is not ratified it could be answered that the negotiations, as just intimated, would be re-opened with Spain on lines which it was known would be approved by the necessary two-thirds majority. Although this situation first concerns America, as it deeply affects her future history and the policy of her Government, it is of grave importance to Great Britain, Germany, France, Russia, Japan, and other nations possessing large commercial or political interests in the Pacific and Far East.

#### HONGKONG'S INTERESTS.

Right here in Hongkong you have every reason to be discussing what will be the outcome. First, as the leading commercial entrepot of the Far East, second, as the great outpost of the British empire beyond India, and, third, as the principal port of communication with the Philippines and as their nearest important neighbour with only 600 miles and two days' steaming intervening, and doing a business with Manila that is counted in the millions of dollars, Hongkong assuredly can claim that she is vitally concerned. What, moreover, with the Philippines controlling the main route to the north after the passing of the Straits of Malacca, with their extended position along the east side of the South China Sea for over 700 miles from Borneo north and directly opposite the French possessions of Indo-China, with their location athwart, as it were, the direct routes to Australia from China, and with their general situation in easy steaming radius of all important points from Yokohama to Batavia—what, I say, with this remarkable position of Manila on the map of Asia, Hongkong as an integral part of the British empire has interests at stake second only to those of the United States. Were it not that possibly the whole future foreign policy of the United States depends on her solution of the Philippine question I should say that the interests of Great Britain in the disposal or government of the islands was greater than that of all other nations combined. If in addition to the strategic position of the Philippines in relation to the different parts of the British empire it is remembered that the major portion of the foreign trade of Manila, Iloilo, Cebu, and other lesser ports of the islands is owned and controlled by British firms, the meaning of what I say may be more readily appreciated. To fasten this thought in your mind let me call your passing attention to the fact that the two leading English houses in Manila during the sixteen months from January, 1897, to April, 1898, paid more in Customs duties than the fourteen Swiss and German houses combined. To be more specific, nine German firms paid duties amounting approximately to \$547,000, five Swiss \$736,000, and nine British \$3,365,000, while one British firm paid \$752,000, or greater than the nine German firms combined. These figures are not given for the purpose of belittling German and Swiss interests, but simply as a

statement of fact. In the same connection I am compelled to admit that the business of American houses out little or no figure. The future returns we hope will show that they have successfully entered the field. Along with the figures just quoted, if you bear in mind that in a total foreign trade of over \$60,000,000 two-thirds of it, or \$40,000,000, are owned by British houses, you will see that you cannot afford to forget that in the present crisis it is not only the United States which must have care for the future. By owning the trade I do not necessarily mean that the imports and exports are directly to and fro Great Britain, but simply that they are handled and controlled by British houses.

#### THE STRATEGICAL AND COMMERCIAL POSITION OF MANILA.

But lest even yet I may not have brought home to you with sufficient strength the concern which Great Britain as a nation and Hongkong as part of that nation must have in the disposition of the Philippines, and realising that in addressing an audience largely British I must remember that you are chiefly interested in considering how your country and your commerce are affected by the late war, I must emphasise the geographical situation of Manila in its relation to the chief points of the Far East and both the Northern and Southern Pacific in comparison with Hongkong. Manila is 150 miles nearer Singapore, and hence all points beyond in Burmah, India, and Europe; 200 miles nearer Bangkok and points in the Gulf of Siam; 500 miles nearer Java; 630 miles nearer Australia; 250 miles nearer Honolulu and the United States; equi-distant to Yokohama; nearly the same to Vladivostok, and not much farther to Shanghai, Kiaochau, Port Arthur, Chefoo, and other northern ports. In other words, within a circle drawn in a radius of 1,800 miles with the centre half-way between Hongkong and Manila there would be more important commercial points nearer Manila than Hongkong. Now all this does not prove that Manila has any great advantages over Hongkong, or that she will ever surpass her in commercial and political value, for there are numerous other considerations that go to determine the importance of locality, but it does prove that she occupies an undeniably strong place for both trade and strategic purposes; that under the progressive administration of the United States, or some other enterprising Power, or of native autonomy or independence she has a brilliant opportunity which cannot be hidden, and that she may yet prove a worthy rival of Singapore, Hongkong, Shanghai, and Yokohama in the vast commercial exchange of the Far East. It is only since the war enlightened the world in regard to the location and resources of the Philippines that it has appreciated their splendid position, value, and bearing on the commercial and political balance of power in the Pacific.

#### THE UNITED STATES AND THE TRADE AND POLITICS OF THE PACIFIC.

Literally translated my subject might be made to read, "The situation in the Far East as affected by the American occupation of the Philippines," for whether such occupation is permanent or temporary it will have accomplished two great results that have a vital bearing in the Far East—first, America's full appreciation of and active interest in the politics and commerce of the East; second the opening up of the Philippines and the development of their resources. These are certainly results worthy of careful consideration and which either directly or indirectly affect nearly every portion of the Orient. As corollaries to the main proposition we have first the annexation of the Hawaiian Islands, already accomplished through the influence of war conditions; second, the determination of the United States to construct without further delay the Nicaragua Canal; third, the movement to lay a cable across the Pacific from the United States to the Philippines, Japan, and China; fourth, the putting on the trans-Pacific route new lines of passenger and freight steamers and the extension of old lines; and fifth, but not the least, a great awakening of interest not only throughout the United States but throughout the best part of the world in the trade and politics of the Pacific. Still more

there might be mentioned the general enlargement of the American navy with the important specific increase of the Asiatic Squadron, which has its obvious influence, the possible presence in Asiatic lands of a strong American land force, and the consequent readiness of the United States to act in any great emergency that may arise in the future evolution of Asiatic politics. Not to be forgotten, however, are the many signs of interest which Germany has and is manifesting in the disposition of the Philippines which, following on her enterprising step at Kiaochau, has its significance and shows a natural desire on her part to participate in the development of the Far East. Japan also looks on with anxious gaze and deems herself affected by the results of the war, for it is almost hailing distance from southern Formosa to northern Luzon. And is it not possible that in the Philippines may grow up a nation in the south that will rival Japan in the north? To realize the meaning of America's gigantic step let us look back twelve months. Had you then asked the average American whether his country had interests in the Pacific beyond his own Pacific coast, the Klondike, and Honolulu, he would have shown ignorance; had the American people been asked to take the Philippines as a gift free of all mortgages, Spanish, native, or, if we go into history, British, 95 per cent. would have voted nay; had you asked the ordinary member of Congress to vote for Hawaiian annexation, the construction of the Nicaraguan Canal, the subsidizing of a cable line, the support of a firm policy for the protection of trade in China, he would have quibbled over technicalities or trivialities; had you told a true story of the possibilities of American trade in the Pacific and Far East, especially China, and exhorted the manufacturers, exporters, and all concerned to an active exploitation of the field, you would have been listened to by a very few, laughed at by many, and doubted by the majority. Now all is changed. Every newspaper and every magazine in the land contains articles on the Far East and the Philippines; there the school children are studying the map of the Far East as if it outlined their own state; manufacturers and exporters are seeking all the information obtainable, and our consular representatives, including the able energetic Consul-General at this port, are flooded with enquiries of all kinds; Congressmen without hesitation annex Hawaii, vote millions for the navy, cable, and canal, and even the President recommends the maintenance of the "open door" and suggests sending a special commission to China to investigate commercial conditions and possibilities; while we find a large majority of the Senate, if not quite the two-thirds, ready to ratify a treaty that comprehends occupation of the Philippines. After this awakening, this appreciation of what the Far East affords, there can be no retreat from a greater participation in its trade and politics, whether the United States shall hold the Philippines entirely or in part. The powerful interests of awakened commerce will insist on a forward movement and the following of such a policy as will best subserve American interests in the vast field concerned.

#### AMERICA'S POLICY IN CHINA.

This, as I outlined before, is perhaps the chief result of the late war, and leads up to a statement of what should be the specific policy of the United States towards China, where lies America's greatest interest and where she has and always will have more at stake in the great matter of markets for her exports than she has now or ever can have in the Philippines under any conditions. Enumerated under special heads that policy should include, first, uniting with the other Powers or those chiefly concerned with a friendly spirit towards China and the promotion of her own good as well as that of foreign nations, in compelling her to institute reforms in her Government, including, second, capable direction or control of her finances and reorganisation and improvement of her army and essential forces of order; third, maintaining freedom of trade with equal rights to all nations and special favours to none in all the territory comprehended in the treaties; fourth, supporting the integrity of the Empire and opposing the alienation of large areas of such dominion; and fifth, in the event of unavoidable delimitation of spheres of influence, such delimitation as will not close the growing markets



to the products of the United States and nations of similar commercial interests. It would seem to me that on such a platform not only Great Britain and the United States but Germany and Japan, and even France and Russia, should be able to stand. It may require the millennium for all six of these nations to agree, but let those who are strongest lead the way with a united front and the others will be forced to follow. Coincident with the closing of the war and the consideration of what policy America shall follow in the Far East, some interesting developments appear.

#### AMERICAN AND BRITISH ACCORD.

Possibly some of the most gratifying features have been the accord with which Great Britain and the United States have been and are working at Peking in several important issues; the unanimity of action at Shanghai, where their interests are akin; the sudden and almost startling appreciation by America that she is equally concerned with England in keeping Manchuria open and that to-day she has the controlling share of the imports into Newchwang, the chief port of the far north and the key to the region back of Port Arthur; and the excellent progress that is being made towards carrying out the American enterprise for a trunk railway from Canton to Hankow, which means that American interests will be allied with those of Great Britain in keeping open the great back country of the West River. These are only a few general illustrations of the movements of the hour; had I time and you the patience I might be more specific. But I would not be misunderstood as being an unreasoning critic of Powers whose policies may not be entirely in accord with ours. They are doubtless working for their own best interests and therefore justified in their methods. What is best for us may not be best for them. In that situation we must strive at least to preserve and protect if not enlarge the rights which we now already possess. If we do not show that we intend to guard what we have or take advantage of new opportunities we cannot blame others for guarding their interests and taking advantage of these opportunities. I might sum up my observations on this point by stating that whereas before the war the United States was in doubt as to her interests and policy in China she is now as a result of the war face to face with the importance and possibilities of her interests and must adopt a policy of decision and progress or for ever be left behind in the great unpeopled race for supremacy in the Pacific.

#### THE FUTURE OF THE PHILIPPINES.

As to the future of the Philippines, I take a more optimistic view than most students of the situation. I cannot definitely tell you what that future will be politically, because I do not know. Were I to attempt to outline it with any certainty you would have no reason to trust my judgment. I know what I hope, but hope, I fear, cuts little figure in the solution of the Philippine question. Still, I have great confidence that wise counsels will prevail and the best interests of all concerned be subserved. Of the commercial outlook—and that is what chiefly concerns Hongkong—I could speak with more certainty. The foreign trade of the islands should be doubled in the near future and within ten years should expand from \$60,000,000 to \$200,000,000. In my Shanghai address I treated exhaustively of the commerce and trade of the islands as the conclusions and result of my own observation, travel, and study. If any of you should take the particular interest to care for a copy of that address I shall be glad to provide you. As the scope of my remarks this evening does not necessarily include such statistics and descriptions I shall not here review them.

#### THE FUTURE GOVERNMENT OF THE PHILIPPINES.—EXTRA-TERRITORIALITY.

Now as to the great question what government shall prevail in the Philippines, or what disposition shall be made of this resourceful group, I am free to say, subject of course to new data and information that might come to my knowledge, but judging from my own investigation of the islands, their resources and possibilities, their location, their inhabitants, customs, habits, and the capabilities of the leaders of the people, that the happiest solution of the present problems and difficulties would be the careful establishment of a semi-independent

protectorate under the general control or guidance of the United States until it shall prove its quality and ability to stand alone; the United States reserving for itself some port like that of Subig Bay for a naval station and securing for itself and other nations in the event of eventual independence extra-territorial rights or jurisdiction over nationals, as we now have in Japan, China, Siam, Persia, and Turkey. I would lay special stress on this point of extra-territorial rights as assisting in settling the Philippine question, because I do not know of its having been previously brought forward in this connection, and because it would avoid the most serious dangers of native or inexperienced authority and rule. If all nations had extra-territorial rights in Japan during the period of her development as a great nation, if we now have them in old-established countries like China, Siam, Persia, and Turkey, certainly we could claim them with all right and justice in the Philippines, and doubtless the Filipinos would grant them gladly if such step would enable them to win independence. The great vested British, German, and other interests would then have full protection. As elsewhere foreigners and foreign property would be under the exclusive jurisdiction of foreign consuls. This system has obtained successfully in the past despite its weaknesses and defects, and it could apply in the Philippines say for a certain number of years, when if necessary, as in Japan, it could be abrogated. I remember very well a long conversation with one of the most prominent Filipino leaders at Malolos, who, on my suggesting this possibility, said that he was confident such a system would be heartily approved by the Philippine leaders and people. With the experience of the past in other countries numerous changes and improvements in its workings could be outlined in the necessary treaties. How long a period must pass before the Filipinos could exercise such semi-independence would largely depend on their own efforts. The United States are not moved by a mere spirit of conquest, in holding the islands; they have them and they cannot surrender them either to the natives or to anyone else, until convinced that they are taking the wisest course. The United States have assumed a mighty responsibility, not only to themselves and to the natives, but to the world, in occupying the islands, and they cannot return them to their former sovereignty, sell them to another Power, or yield them to native rule, or assume final permanent management until their course seems entirely justifiable and necessary.

#### THE EFFECT ON THE UNITED STATES OF SURRENDERING CONTROL.

I have said and been quoted as saying that if America shall surrender control of the Philippines she will for ever relegate herself to a secondary position in the Pacific. That I may be better understood I would explain that conclusion in this way: if the United States shrinks from the duty devolving upon her in the Philippines, surrenders all the advantages gained, and fails to improve the open and legitimate opportunities of the situation, and does not so solve the problem as to possess at least an important naval station or base of commercial and strategic action and policy, such as Subig Bay, or other point equally good, she will be guilty of flagrant disregard of her best interests and in all probability fail to command the position in the Pacific and the Far East that she deserves and to which she is now entitled.

#### AMERICA'S INTENTIONS.

The Filipinos are wrong if they suppose that the people of the United States have ever intended or planned to impose any kind of rule on them. On the other hand it has been and is the intention of the President and people to give the Filipinos that kind of administration which is best suited to them. No matter what be the nature of exciting telegrams sent over the wires either from the Philippines or the United States, it is best that both sides should remain cool headed and peaceably inclined until the coming Commission shall have had time to study the situation carefully and report in detail to the home Government.

#### KEEP FREE FROM PREJUDICE.

In all this discussion of what is wisest to be done the freer both natives and Americans can

keep from prejudice the better. To say that this or the other must be done is foolish and provocative of trouble. Although I have been watching developments ever since last May I must admit that at this very moment I am undecided in my own mind as to what is altogether best. At one time one settlement seems eminently satisfactory and just, again the same seems equally unsatisfactory and unjust. It is only by weighing all considerations carefully in the balance, as I trust the Commission will do, that an honorable, righteous, and acceptable conclusion can be reached. In the meantime let us hope that no spark will fire the powder mine and that the armed forces of both sides will be governed by wise restraint and allow the higher authorities to settle with negotiations what might otherwise only be accomplished by great loss of life and vast expenditure of money.

#### VARIOUS METHODS OF SETTLEMENT.

The various methods of settling the Philippine question might be described as follows: first, absolute American control, administering the affairs of the islands as a colony or part of the United States; second, partial American control, giving the natives such duties of administration as they can satisfactorily perform at once; third, sale to some other Power of the islands; fourth, protectorate or autonomous rule; fifth, semi-independence or partial protectorate developing eventually into sixth, independence with extra-territorial jurisdiction and the granting of a naval station to the United States. Which seems to me to commend itself the most highly I have already discussed. The effect on the Far East would be much the same whether the United States governs the islands as a dependency or grants them autonomy with certain reserved rights. They will be opened to commerce and trade and afford a wide field for development of resources as never before, and hence exercise a quickening influence on the entire Far East.

#### CUSTOMS, TARIFF, AND THE OPEN DOOR.

As to the matter of Customs tariff and the open door, the chances of securing the latter might even be greater with an independent Government than with an exclusive American control, although I am satisfied that the United States will not eventually adopt any policy prejudicial to foreign interests beyond the actual requirements of the situation; and it is even possible if the present treaty is ratified that all nations will have equal trade privileges for twelve years under the most favoured nation principle, from the fact that Spain is given for that period equal rights in imports with the United States. Do not let argument at rest I might add that no definite understanding has yet been reached in regard to Customs beyond continuing in force the present system until a new one shall be devised. It is doubtful if any important change will be effected within a year.

#### PRESIDENT MCKINLEY AND THE PHILIPINO LEADERS.

I have supreme confidence in the good judgment of President McKinley and believe that the greatest monument to his career as President will yet be the happy settlement of the Philippine question. Of the Filipinos and their leaders I have already spoken in Tokyo and Shanghai. For them I have more kind words than severe criticisms. If they are led by wise counsels and not carried away by the enthusiastic shouts of the more excitable element they will aid their cause. Taking into consideration the entire history of their connection with the situation I think they are entitled to a fair hearing in determining the future of the Philippines. Comparing them with other nations of similar type, appearance, and habits, it can be said that the test is in their favour. It is my belief that Admiral Dewey and General Otis are doing all in their power to conduct affairs to a successful conclusion, and considering all the difficulties of the situation are entitled to whatever credit is given them. I am also of the opinion that it is the sincere desire of General Aguirre to avoid a conflict. He is a man of discretion, no matter what may be said against him, and he realises fully the hopelessness of actual war with America. If his followers will exercise equal restraint the difficulties of the hour will be lessened.



## A PLEA FOR CONSIDERATION.

In judging this whole Philippine question I would appeal to all Britishers, whose country is skilled and experienced in the art of colonising and managing alien races, to mingle their criticisms of America's policy and action with charity and remember that we are trying to do the best we can under most trying conditions. While we think that we have the best form of government for the United States, we admit that it was never planned with reference to present conditions and hence we are confronted with gravest problems that can only be solved after long study. We entertain deep respect for Britain's unrivalled record as a colonising Power and if we shall branch out on similar lines we shall have much to learn from you and may even find it necessary to loan some of your distinguished colonial agents to assist us in our labours. Not that we have not men of quality and integrity, but that they lack equal experience in governing Asiatics.

## A KIND WORD FOR SIAM.

Before concluding I wish to speak a kind word for Siam. With Bangkok only 1,250 miles away and connected with Hongkong by a regular line of steamers there is a certain amount of local interest in this wonderful kingdom of South-eastern Asia that should not be allowed to flag. Having a population of 8,000,000, an extent of over 200,000 square miles, vast areas of fertile and productive lands, an annual foreign trade of \$40,000,000, of which Great Britain controls four-fifths, a King of acknowledged ability who is earnestly striving to lead his people to a higher plane, and a people well disposed to foreigners even if lazy from centuries of tropical life, and a capital city, Bangkok, of 400,000 population, which is at once one of the busiest and yet most typical cities of Asia, Siam indeed has a bright future provided only she takes advantage of the opportunities offered her to progress and Great Britain does not desert her in her tribulations. Siam and her Government have numerous faults and weaknesses, but they are retold often enough. It gives me pleasure to refer to her only in well-disposed words.

## ADVANCE HONGKONG!

Of Hongkong as one of Great Britain's notable colonies I am moved sincerely, with no sense of flattery, to speak in complimentary terms. During the last five years it has been my privilege to pass through or visit it at frequent intervals. On each occasion I have noted improvement and extension. With the Kowloon district enlarged I see no reason why Hongkong should not become a great manufacturing as well as shipping and distributing centre. Add to that the proximity of the Philippines with their increasing trade exchange and you have a bright future that the clouds of temporary dullness or darkness of business or trade cannot dim.

## CONCLUSION.

In conclusion I have but a word to add. My address this afternoon has omitted much that I should have enjoyed discussing, but I have endeavoured not to cover the same ground in the main as my remarks at Tokyo and Shanghai covered. If therefore I have failed to consider divisions of the subject that would have especially appealed to some of you I trust you will pardon my failure to be entirely comprehensive. Moreover, I repeat what I said at the beginning, I have made no effort at oratory or rhetoric but have contented myself with a plain talk on the situation. As for my opinions and views, I do not claim that they are infallible, but trust that they approximate the truth. I am still a student, not a professor, of Asiatic peoples and politics. As you have honoured me by listening attentively to this address I feel that I have had full recompense for my efforts in the character of my audience. The situation in the Far East as affected by the results of the late war is only commencing to unfold itself. May we hope and pray that as events follow one after the other with that marvellous rapidity of modern times, and as one nation works with or against another according as time and conditions demand, Great Britain and the United States may be always found working harmoniously and intrepidly together for the upholding of humanity's best interests and the ultimate extension of Anglo-

Saxon liberty, progress, and civilisation. (Loud applause).

## VOTE OF THANKS.

The CHAIRMAN in proposing a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Barrett briefly reviewed the lecture and dwelt especially on the possible rivalry of Manila with Hongkong, remarking that the former was more advantageously situated and that it behoved us all, officials and unofficials, to do all in our power to maintain Hongkong in the position of pre-eminence it now occupied.

Mr. GRANVILLE SHARP, in supporting the Chairman's proposal, made a brief and characteristic speech in the course of which he said that the chief result of the late war was the drawing-together of the British and American nations—(applause)—which would be recorded as the principal event of the nineteenth century. This drawing-together of the two nations made for peace on earth and good will to man, for now no other nations could fight without our permission. (Laughter and applause.)

## ST. JOHN'S CATHEDRAL CHURCH.

## ANNUAL MEETING OF SEATHOLDERS AND SUBSCRIBERS.

The annual meeting of seatholders and subscribers in connection with St. John's Cathedral Church was held in St. Paul's College on the 30th January. Bishop Hoare presided and there were also present the Rev. R. F. Cobbold, Sir John Carrington, the Hon. R. D. Ormsby, Mr. T. Jackson, Mr. J. M. Beck, Captain F. G. Goddard, and Mr. H. R. Harcastle. Mr. Cobbold was appointed to act as secretary.

The BISHOP remarked at the outset that that was the first time he had taken the chair at that meeting, and he wished to say what a pleasure it was to him to be there. He hoped that at that meeting and at many other meetings they would be able to work together for the glory of God and the good of His church. He had first to call upon Mr. Jackson to present the accounts with a view to their being passed. They had already been audited. There was just one point it seemed to him which ought to have attention called to it. At the beginning of last year there was a deficit of nearly \$1,000. At the end of the year there was a balance in hand of over \$1,400. That was to say they had made way to the extent of over \$2,000. He believed the deficiency last year was partly caused by repairs to the organ. They must remember this, that in accordance with the request which he received by telegraph from the Church Body, he had invited a clergyman to come out to assist Mr. Cobbold in the Cathedral. That gentleman would have to be paid, and the increase of \$2,000 was not sufficient to pay the salary which he was authorised to promise him.

Mr. JACKSON (hon. treasurer), in presenting the accounts, said they commenced the year with a deficit of \$907.67. That was caused by very extensive repairs to the organ. Had it not been for the expense this incurred they would have been so much to the good. These repairs cost over \$2,000. He believed the organ was now in very good order, and it was not likely that such a heavy bill would again fall on the church for such a purpose for many years to come. They finished the year with a balance in hand of \$1,139.1, and there was in the bank on fixed deposit—a sort of reserve fund—\$3,491.39. This, he was sorry to say, was not nearly as favourable a statement as he thought he should be able to make. He very much regretted that the appeal they made to the seatholders and the members of the church was not responded to as he had hoped and expected it would be. As a matter of fact only some half-dozen people increased their subscriptions in response to the appeal in respect of getting out an assistant chaplain. The want of interest in the matter was very much to be deplored. He quite saw that to keep the church in a satisfactory financial position a more urgent appeal would have to be made to the supporters of the church during the coming year. It would never do for them to drift into debt. Their position now was a sound and satisfactory one, but he could see that with the expenses they had to meet in the future an increased response would have to be made.

Sir JOHN CARRINGTON remarked that when the Church Body telegraphed to his lordship asking him to invite an assistant chaplain to come out they thought there would be a generous response on the part of the seat-holders and subscribers.

The Hon. R. D. ORMSBY did not think the prospect before them was unhelpful. They had wiped off a debt of \$1,000 and started the year with \$1,000 in hand towards the salary of the chaplain. He thought that when the chaplain arrived they might hope to receive more subscriptions.

Sir JOHN CARRINGTON—Is it a three years' appointment?

The BISHOP—Yes.

On the motion of Sir JOHN CARRINGTON seconded by the Hon. R. D. ORMSBY, the accounts were passed.

Sir JOHN CARRINGTON, on being called upon to say a few words with regard to the new ordinance and the new regulations, said it would be remembered that at the last annual meeting it was agreed that the Government should be asked to place before the Legislature an amending bill making the office of lay member of the Church Body an annual one instead of a permanent one. When the Church Body came to consider the matter they thought that the present ordinance was somewhat cumbersome and needed amendment in one or two minor particulars, and therefore instead of having the existing ordinance on the statute book and the amending ordinance it was thought better to propose a new ordinance embodying the required amendments. That was accordingly done, and the ordinance was now ready, and he would suggest to the seat-holders and subscribers that it should be approved by them and sent in to the Government to place before the Legislative Council. He might say that the changes in the ordinance were all minor ones excepting the particular one to which he had already referred—that was to say the matter of the tenure of office of lay members of the Church Body. In the existing ordinance there was no doubt that that tenure was a permanent or life one, but it was proposed to amend the ordinance in that respect. The new ordinance left the question to be dealt with by regulation. The regulations, in accordance with the wish of the members and seatholders last year, provided that the office should be an annual one, and that the election should take place at the annual meeting of seat-holders and subscribers in the month of January in each year. The Church Body had given a good deal of attention to the matter on more than one occasion, and they were inclined to think that it might be convenient to revert to the position taken up in the old ordinance—that was to say that the office should be a permanent one. He did not suppose members would wish to argue the matter that day, because the Church Body did not wish to bring the ordinance before members that day. The regulations could only be dealt with after the ordinance had been passed. It would be premature to deal with the regulations that day. He only mentioned it so that the seatholders might consider whether they should adopt the proposed new plan of the annual tenure or whether they should revert to the old plan and allow lay members of the Church Body to hold office permanently. There was little fear of the Church Body becoming a close corporation. He found that when the ordinance was passed in 1892 the Church Body was composed of eight members—the Bishop and Chaplain, and six lay members. Of the latter there was not one in the colony now except Mr. Ford. The only matter in the regulations that he need refer to by way merely of information so to speak against the time when the regulations came up for consideration was the question of declaring sittings open. The regulation on that point was similar to the existing regulation, which gave the Church Body power to appropriate sittings which were not occupied at the beginning of any service except the ordinary Sunday morning service. At the Church Body meeting the other day he thought there should be a special meeting at which both the ordinance and the regulations should be considered and adopted with the necessary alterations and amendments which might commend themselves to seatholders and subscribers, but he subsequently found out that there would need to be



two meetings—one to deal with the ordinance, which must be dealt with in the first instance and passed into law before they could pass the regulations. What he would suggest that they should do that day was that they should take the word of the Church Body that the ordinance contained no change of importance except that to which he had already referred.

On the motion of Mr. BECK, seconded by Mr. JACKSON, the ordinance was approved, and it was decided to forward it to the Government with a request that they should place it before the Legislature.

The election of the Church Body for the ensuing year then took place as follows:—Sir John Carrington, Hon. R. D. Ormsby, Hon. R. M. Rumsey, Mr. T. Jackson, Mr. McEwen and Mr. H. R. Harcastle.

The existing regulations were formally approved.

Mr. W. CHATHAM was appointed auditor, on the motion of Mr. JACKSON, seconded by Mr. ORMSBY.

Mr. COBBOLD, in proposing a vote of thanks to the hon. treasurer, said that a great many little matters passed through his hands, such as the collection of obits, the collection of subscriptions, seat rents, and making out debit forms to send to people after they had engaged seats. Then he had to be in touch with the secretary, who kept a list of the seat-holders, and he had to see that the seats were properly taken and so on.

Captain GODDARD seconded and the motion was carried.

Mr. JACKSON, in replying, remarked that as he said last year though he was the honorary treasurer Mr. Wright was the real treasurer. Mr. Wright did all the work. He would convey to him in a sort of vicarious way the vote which had just been passed.

Sir JOHN CARRINGTON, in referring to the departure of Mr. Spriggs, said that Mr. Spriggs was for a long time a member of the choir, and was a constant and faithful attender at the practices. Besides that he helped the chaplain very greatly and very generously in the ministrations in connection with the church. He believed the chaplain had said he had hardly ever been absent from a single service since he was first connected with the Cathedral. The Church Body had already placed on their minutes a resolution of gratitude to Mr. Spriggs recognising his services; but the Church Body held their meetings in secret, and perhaps the seat holders and subscribers there present would think it was not inappropriate to make some public acknowledgement of his services to the church. He proposed that a resolution such as he suggested should be passed and forwarded to Mr. Spriggs.

Captain GODDARD seconded, remarking that Mr. Spriggs had been a most regular attender and had done all he could to assist Mr. Cobbold.

Mr. COBBOLD endorsed these remarks, adding that in losing Mr. Spriggs he felt in the position of a clergyman who had lost his churchwarden.

The resolution was passed unanimously.

A vote of thanks was accorded the Bishop for presiding.

Mr. JACKSON, in proposing the same, said that the more they saw of the Bishop the better they liked him. Let them hope he would be with them for many years, that he would be blessed in his office, and that church matters would prosper under him.

The BISHOP, in replying, said he did not think he deserved a vote of thanks for taking the chair, because it seemed that by Government ordinance he was compelled to do so.

The proceedings then terminated.

Antonio Borges Pereira, the murderer of Colonel Porphyrio Zeferino de Souza, has been tried by Court Martial at Macao, found guilty, and sentenced to death. It is believed that His Majesty the King of Portugal will commute the sentence.

On the 19th January Captain Slade and the Officers of H.M.S. *Algerine* entertained the Foochow community at a ball at the Foochow Club. A very glowing description of the function is given in the *Echo* and regret is expressed that the community is so soon to lose the genial society of Captain Slade and his officers.

## HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

A meeting of the Hongkong Sanitary Board was held on the 2nd January. The President (Dr. J. M. Atkinson, Principal Civil Medical Officer) occupied the chair, and there were also present the Vice-President (the Hon. F. H. May, Captain Superintendent of Police), the Hon. R. D. Ormsby (Director of Public Works), Mr. J. Dyer Ball (Acting Registrar-General), Mr. E. Osborne, and Dr. Clark (Medical Officer of Health and Acting Secretary). Mr. Ladds (Colonial Veterinary Surgeon) also attended.

### THE REPORT OF THE COLONIAL VETERINARY SURGEON.

The first item on the agenda was "Report of the Colonial Veterinary Surgeon for 1898." We have already published a copy of the report, as it came before the Board at their previous meeting but was deferred for further consideration.

Mr. OSBORNE said that Mr. Ladds's report contained a number of suggestions, some of which had been made as far back as 1889 and repeated in subsequent reports. The recommendations might be placed under two heads—those which involved an expenditure of money and which could not be dealt with by the Board itself but must be referred to the Government, and those which the Board could deal with itself without reference to the Government. The first of these classes of recommendations included the provision of inspection lairs for cattle on landing, the provision of slaughter-houses at Aberdeen and Shauiwan, the provision of a swine depot at Kowloon, the provision of additional poultry plucking and dressing accommodation in the Central Market, the provision of additional stalls in the Shauiwan market, the transfer of the management and control of the slaughter-houses to the Sanitary Board when the present lease of the farmer expired, and the amendment of section 12 of Ordinance 17 of 1887 in accordance with Mr. Ladds's suggestion. These he imagined they would have to refer to the Government. The other points raised in Mr. Ladds's report were—that the Board should licence no more cow sheds in the precincts of the city, that the Board's inspectors should take milk for analysis, and that the Chinese mortuary at Kennedytown should be closed. He was not prepared to say it was either advisable or practicable to adopt the whole of these recommendations at once, but he did say this, that in consequence of his experience Mr. Ladds's views and opinions were entitled to receive more consideration than they appeared to have had in the past, judging from the remarks made in the report, and with a view to this end he moved that the whole of the recommendations be approved by the Sanitary Board—that the Government be asked to give effect to those of his suggestions which concerned the Government, and that the Board adopt those of his recommendations which could be dealt with without reference to the Government. This was a somewhat formidable list, but when it was taken into consideration that it embraced the recommendations of several years' reports he did not think they could be called excessive. Some of them would involve the expenditure of money and they might be told that the Government had no money to spend, but he thought when it was pointed out to the Government that most of these schemes or suggestions were remunerative perhaps they would see their way to allow the expense.

The VICE-PRESIDENT—When does the lease of the slaughter-houses expire?

Dr. CLARK—It is annual.

The VICE-PRESIDENT—I think we had a report in July as to how we proposed to run this matter.

Dr. CLARK—Yes, we have already recommended it to the Government quite recently.

The VICE-PRESIDENT—How many cow-sheds are there licensed in the city at present?

Mr. LADD—I am afraid I cannot give you the exact number, but I should say there are ten or twelve.

The VICE-PRESIDENT—I do not think you can expect the Government to carry out all the recommendations at once. Would it not be better to pick out those which you think most important. The one which I consider to be the most important is that as to the management of slaughter-houses.

Mr. OSBORNE—I am quite prepared to defer my proposition until Mr. Ladds shall have had the opportunity of telling us which he considers most important. If the matter is deferred until next meeting perhaps he will be able to tell us which of these suggestions should be taken in hand first.

The Hon. R. D. ORMSBY thought that what Mr. Osborne had just said was very necessary. The list he had introduced was a very formidable one, and one which he as a member of the Government would not vote upon without some consideration. The question of the Board taking over the management of the slaughter-houses had been fully gone into by the Government, who had declined to entertain the proposal of the Board. He did not think it would be a right position of the Sanitary Board to press that again on them. He thought that if Mr. Osborne would divide his resolution and give them time to consider it it would be better.

The VICE-PRESIDENT—I should imagine the most important recommendations are those in regard to the provision of inspection lairs and the management of the slaughter-houses. Will Mr. Ladds tell us?

Mr. LADD—Yes, I consider that those two are the most important.

The Hon. R. D. ORMSBY—Do you know what the estimate for the inspection lairs was? Mr. Cooper prepared one, and if I remember rightly the price was prohibitive.

Mr. LADD—The estimate for a later scheme than Mr. Cooper's was about \$20,000.

Mr. OSBORNE divided his proposals into three resolutions—first, that the Government be asked to provide as soon as possible inspection lairs for the reception of cattle on landing; second, that the Board recommend the Government to transfer the management and control of the slaughter-houses in the colony to the Board, on the expiration of the present lease to the farmer; and third, that the attention of the Government be raised to the other points raised in Mr. Ladds's report.

The VICE-PRESIDENT, in seconding, said the question of providing inspection lairs for cattle was one which had been under consideration for a number of years. As regarded the taking over of the slaughter-houses, he was aware that the Government did not see their way to adopt the Board's suggestion on the subject last year, but they were not informed what the objections were. It seemed to him it was a confession of weakness for a Board consisting of a body of Englishmen not to be able to control the slaughter-houses of the city. He remembered distinctly that when the Board asked to be allowed to take over the animal depots the same objections were raised. It was said that they could not run them properly, and that they must go on farming the management of slaughter-houses out to Chinese farmers. However, the Board carried their point and the animal depots were a paying concern. But that was not the point at all. They did not want to make money out of them, but they were thoroughly well-managed and far more satisfactorily managed than ever they were in the hands of a Chinese farmer. It seemed to him a monstrous thing that the slaughter-houses, where the whole meat supply of this large and important colony was slaughtered, should be under the absolute control of a Chinese farmer. Recent experiences had shown them what grave abuses crept in under the present arrangement. Mr. Osborne and himself were appointed a committee to enquire into these abuses, and in their opinion such things could not be put a stop to until the Board had the sole control of the slaughter-houses. He failed to imagine what the evils were which would result from the Board getting sole control. It was not going to cost anything. They showed last year that Mr. Ladds's estimate of the revenue derivable from it proved it to be a remunerative undertaking. He was not without hopes that they could reduce the fees for the admission of cattle into these places and thereby help to keep down the price of food, which was continually rising in the colony. What the Board, he imagined, wanted to do was to get the place under its control simply on the ground of public health, and he was confident himself that with the assistance of Mr. Ladds and his inspectors, and by taking a little interest in it themselves, they could do this and do it successfully.



The resolution as to inspection lairs was carried. Before that dealing with the management of slaughter-houses was put.

The Hon. R. D. ORMSBY asked if the slaughter-houses were not already under the control of the Board. He understood that the question was whether they were to be governed by Mr. Ladds and his inspectors or by a Government department.

The VICE-PRESIDENT said that the slaughter-houses were of course under the control of the Board, but the Board leased them out to a farmer, the result being that for all practical purposes they passed under the control of the farmer. The farmer was under the supervision of the inspectors, but he had his own staff—his butchers and his servants—all of whom were frequently found introducing into the slaughter-houses animals rejected by Mr. Ladds as not fit for human food. It seemed to him that if they had slaughter-houses directly under their own officers and had a proper staff of officers, they safe-guarded their food supply and minimised the chance of abuses. There was no question that the Board would be able to manage the slaughter-houses better than they were managed at present, as it did the animal depots.

The Hon. R. D. ORMSBY—With a large permanent staff?

The VICE-PRESIDENT—Of course we shall have to have a permanent staff; so has the farmer, and he pays that staff out of the fees paid for the cattle slaughtered in the slaughter-houses. There is no real difference between the running of a slaughter-house and the running of an animal depot which was formerly run by a farmer. We have taken over one and why not take over the other.

Mr. LADDS said they would want an increased staff of course. But last year the farmer made a profit of \$8,000 or \$9,000, and their staff if increased would not cost anything like that amount.

The VICE-PRESIDENT—In other words through neglecting to take over these slaughter-houses the consumers of food in this colony are taxed to the amount of \$9,000 annually.

Hon. R. D. ORMSBY—May I ask Mr. Ladds how he knows the contractor made \$8,000?

Mr. LADDS said that that was a very simple matter. They had the number of animals taken to the slaughter-houses and they knew how much per head the farmer was allowed to charge.

Mr. OSBORNE reiterated that they ought to have control of the slaughter-houses, adding that if there was a profit it ought to go to the community.

The VICE-PRESIDENT contended that there ought to be no profit. The profit ought to be kept down to what could pay the staff and no more. It was monstrous that in this nineteenth century in a Crown colony they should have their beef and mutton taxed as it was at the present moment. He supposed the Board would tax bread next.

The resolution was passed, as also was the third one in a modified form.

#### REFUSE DESTRUCTORS.

A report of the Sanitary Inspector on refuse destructors was submitted, and it was decided that it should be printed.

#### THE REGULATION OF CATTLE, ETC., DEPOTS.

Bye-laws for the regulation of the cattle, sheep, and swine depots were approved, and it was decided to present them to the Colonial Secretary.

#### THE PROPOSED NEW MARKET IN

##### TAIPINGSHAN.

Correspondence concerning the proposed new market in Taipingshan was submitted.

Acting instructions from the Sanitary Board, Dr. Clark had asked Mr. Ladds (Colonial Veterinary Surgeon): "Whether you have received any official intimation from the Government that a new market is to be built in the Taipingshan resumed area in place of the existing Western Market, and if not what authority there is for stating in your annual report for 1898 that such is the case."

Mr. Ladds in reply said that during the month of September last a letter dated 13.9.98 was sent down to the Acting Registrar-General by the Director of Public Works stating that he had been instructed by the Hon. the Colonial Secretary to enquire of the Acting Registrar-General what space would be required for the new Taipingshan Market and giving the boundaries of the

Market site as South by Market Street, North by Kat Cheong Lane, and East by East Street. Mr. Ball having recorded his opinion passed the letter on to him, when he wrote to the Director of Public Works as follows:—"In answer to your query as to the space likely to be required in the new Taipingshan Market I should say that very small accommodation indeed would suffice, being of opinion that there would be little or no demand for shops or stalls in a market which would be so badly situated and so far away from the sea. It is, however, very difficult to say anything definite upon the subject at all, except that it is the most unsuitable site which could have been chosen as far as the market people (both buyers and sellers) are concerned." Mr. Ladds added, "The above statement is I think sufficient guarantee to warrant the reference made to the subject in my annual report for 1898."

The Vice-President minuted—"It seems odd to decide a question of the site of a new market without reference to the Sanitary Board, which is chiefly responsible, through its officers, for the management of the markets, and whose duty it is to devote special attention to all question of food supply, which is one of the principal factors in the maintenance of the public health. I think we asked the Government before for information re the site of a new market to replace the existing Western Market. I should like to see the correspondence."

The VICE-PRESIDENT said that last summer the opinion was taken of himself, Mr. Brewin (then Acting Registrar-General and representing the Chinese), Mr. Ladds, Dr. Ho Kai, and Mr. Wei A Yuk with regard to the site of the Western Market, and each one of them expressed an opinion adverse to the site in Taipingshan. The question of markets and their sites in this colony was one which affected that Board very much. The Board controlled the markets, and the Board was the guardian of the public health. Therefore it did everything it could to secure the best possible sites for markets and the best possible arrangements for markets. This question was not only a mere question of putting a market in one street or putting it in another. It affected a very large question indeed which had always been troublesome, and that was the question of hawking in the colony. He had made himself exceedingly unpopular with the Medical Officer of Health and the Director of Public Works' predecessor by the policy he had adopted towards hawkers. The Medical Officer of Health objected to his toleration of hawkers because they were great nuisances in the streets and deposited a great deal of garbage and rubbish. The former Director of Public Works objected to his toleration of hawkers because they filled his storm water drains with a great deal of rubbish, and there was nothing he knew more evil-smelling and perhaps more insanitary than decomposing vegetable matter. But since he had been in the police he had adopted one policy towards hawkers, and that policy really derived its origin from a conviction that until the market accommodation of the city was increased hawking must be permitted, and subject as they were to visitations of plague he knew of no more fatal consequence that could ensue from any line of policy than making the price of the food of the poorer classes dear. They wanted to get the food as cheap as they could in order that the people might have as much of it as they could afford to buy and therefore be well nourished and able to withstand attacks of disease. The question of hawking was one which had engaged the attention of various Government departments for years. It had been referred to one committee after another, and the result of the policy he had adopted was that 18 months or two years ago another committee was appointed consisting of himself, Mr. Wodehouse, and Mr. Wei Yuk, and that committee's report dealt with the question of hawking as much as with the question of the site of the Western Market. The two things went together. He asked them to excuse him for going into such length about hawking, but he wanted to show that the question was not merely a question of a few hundred yards in one direction or a few hundred yards in another, but that it was a question which would affect the food supply of the Chinese population in the central part

of the town. He admitted that an excess of hawking did take place and that he tolerated it, and he intended to tolerate it until he received instructions from the Governor not to do so any longer. Therefore he personally viewed this proposal to move the Western Market—which after all was the principal market resorted to by the Chinese—and the Chinese of the lower class in the centre of the city—to a site other than that in which it now stood with some concern. He did not know whether any final decision had been come to in the matter. Of course if a final decision had been come to the thing was done and they could not say anything more about it; but if it was not finally settled they ought to lay their views before the Governor. If they did not do this and this market turned out a failure it may be charged against them that when the question was on the tapis they did not make any move to have the market placed in another position. He, therefore, begged leave to move "That the Board regrets to learn that it is contemplated to build a new Western Market in the resumed area of Taipingshan, and desires to place its views on the subject before His Excellency and the Government if it is not too late for the Government to reconsider the matter."

Mr. DYER BALL, in seconding, said he thought this matter of a market was one of the most important with which they had to deal. It concerned the food supply of the colony, and it concerned also the cheap supply of food to the Chinese community. He thought they were only doing their duty in asking that their opinion might be expressed on the subject.

The Hon. R. D. ORMSBY said he might say for the information of the Board that as far as he knew the final decision had not been arrived at. But there were other questions that came in in connection with the building of a market at Taipingshan which made it impossible for him to vote for the resolution—in fact he must oppose it. The Government owned a very large area of land still in the resumed area of Taipingshan. That land, as every one was aware, had not been sold very rapidly. Some of it was sold at the end of 1897 and other small lots were sold last year. He had positive proof that the building of a market at Taipingshan would raise the value of the land to the extent of \$21,000 an acre at the very least.

The VICE-PRESIDENT said that they as a Board had nothing to do with financial considerations such as the honourable Director of Public Works had advanced. He had not the slightest doubt that those considerations must weigh, and weigh very heavily, but they as a Board of course looked at things from a sanitary point of view, and it was in that point of view that they desired, he assumed, to press their views on this subject before the Government.

The PRESIDENT said that in connection with this matter he thought it advisable at that point to call attention to the remarks made in reference to the market by the Colonial Veterinary Surgeon in his report.

Mr. OSBORNE said that if there was any value attaching to what the Colonial Veterinary Surgeon said in his report it meant that if they closed the Western Market and substituted for it one in Taipingshan—if Taipingshan Market was a failure and people would not go there, it followed that those people who had hitherto used the Western market—the vast boat population and others—would have to go elsewhere, and the only other market he believed, or the nearest market to the Western Market, was the Central Market, so that it followed that if Taipingshan market was a failure people would transact their business in the Central Market, which he believed was already crowded, and if a large mass of extra people went there it would become overcrowded. An overcrowded market meant a dirty and insanitary market, and as it was their business to keep the markets in a healthy cleanly state it followed that they would not be able to do this with the Central Market. He thought the attention of the Government should be drawn to these various points which had been raised, and perhaps if they had not already arrived at a decision they might perhaps fall in with the views of the members of the Board.



The resolution was then put and carried.

#### THE PLAGUE.

A telegram dated Jan. 31st has been received by His Excellency from the Home Secretary to the Government of India stating "Suspected case of plague has occurred in Calcutta."

#### MORTALITY RETURNS.

The mortality returns for the colony of Hongkong for the week ended Jan. 14th show a death rate of 13.5 against 14.2 for the previous week and 18.3 for the corresponding week last year. The rate for the following week was 14.4 against 14.7 for the corresponding week last year.

The returns for Macao show 36 deaths for the week ended Dec. 2nd, 51 for the week ended Jan. 15th, and 43 for the week ended Jan. 22nd.

The proceedings then terminated.

#### THE PANTOMIME.

The Amateur Dramatic Club commenced a second series of performances of the pantomime "The Yellow Dwarf" at the Theatre Royal on Saturday evening. Considering the counter attractions there was a good attendance, the military predominating in the dress circle, and this fact apparently did not fail to strike the versatile Sexton ("King of Hearts"), who on one occasion, when addressing the "Wicked Fairy" asked, "Why this grand R.A.P." (array). With the exception of the introduction of a new song or two and the omission of the Harlequinade, the performance was practically the same as at the first productions. The transformation scene was greatly admired, but we think the innovation of the diver would be more realistic if the humorous side were dropped and the diver incorporated in the transformation scene. On Saturday night instead of adding to the realism of the scene he spoiled its effect by his intrusion. Several new local hits were introduced in the song (sung by Messrs. Caldwell and Sexton), "Let 'em all come" which was a great success. The old favourite, "For a very long time," was greeted with a shout of applause as soon as the opening chords were struck by the orchestra, and it was bristling with local allusions. With the leading characters no fault could be found; but the back rows were a little out of touch, owing probably to the want of rehearsal in the interval. Messrs. Sexton and Caldwell, as the King and Queen of Hearts showed no falling off in their humorous impersonations, and were in fact the life and soul of the piece. But in the adaptation of the pantomime we think a little more prominence might have been given to the part of "the Yellow Dwarf," which is at present too insignificant. The part might be made a great deal more of and this would relieve the pressure on Messrs. Caldwell and Sexton, who are at present responsible for almost all the humour and extravagances which are needed to make a pantomime lively. Mrs. Fullerton made a captivating "Princess Adfair," and her sweet singing was greatly admired and won storms of applause. Miss Murray Bain was a dainty "Maid of Hearts" and sang with her usual charm. Of Little Queenie Lambert nothing but words of the highest praise can be said. She is a little wonder, and her unique performance created quite a sensation. Her dancing was loudly applauded and encored. By kind permission of Captain Schomberg, R.N., and Officers, the Band of H.M.S. *Victorious* filled the orchestra.

The German steamer *Tai Lee* arrived at Manila from Hongkong and Amoy at four o'clock on the afternoon of the 20th January. She was immediately placed in quarantine, by Dr. Bruce Foulkes, the quarantine officer, on account of a case of smallpox having been developed on the voyage, by a Greek passenger. There are over five hundred passengers on board the steamer, both Europeans and Chinese, and the afflicted man has been walking around with the crowd. The health authorities will disinfect the ship at once, and she will be allowed to return for service on her regular run as soon as possible. The steamer was sent out into the bay clear of the fleet and will keep company with the transport *City of Puebla*, which is also in quarantine. — *Manila Times*.

#### ACCIDENT AT THE THEATRE ROYAL.

##### NARROW ESCAPE OF MR. SKRIMSHIRE.

Another performance of the pantomime "The Yellow Dwarf" was given in the Theatre Royal on Wednesday evening by the Amateur Dramatic Company. There was a large audience, T.R.H. Prince and Princess Henry of Prussia, and H.E. Sir Henry Blake and Lady Blake were again present. In some respects the performance was the most successful of the series but an accident occurred during the evening which somewhat marred the effect. On the stage are two galleries—one 18 feet above the floor and the other seven or eight feet above that. They are connected by a somewhat heavy beam, against which the men in charge of the scenery placed their feet when hauling any particular scene up. Just when the "Demon Swamp" scene had been reached the men were about to pull and had placed their feet against the beam when the latter slipped and fell on the stage, smashing one of the planks. Mr. Skrimshire, who takes the part of the Khave of Hearts, was sitting in a chair at the time with his eyes shut, pretending to be asleep. The beam fell just in front of him and in the rebound struck him over the eye and knocked him down. He came on to the stage again, but as he had been considerably shaken and had not much more to do he was advised to go home, and this he did. A medical man had also to be called to one of the lady dancers, Miss D'Almada, who had fainted and had to be carried off. On Thursday His Excellency made kindly enquiries as to the patients and was pleased to learn that they were not much the worse. We understand that at the commencement of the pantomime a thorough examination of the stage was made, but it could not have been noticed that the beam was not wedged in as it ought to have been.

#### THE STUDY OF MALARIA AND MOSQUITOES.

The following circular despatch of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, with its enclosure, is published in the *Gazette*, and persons willing to assist the Government in making the collections referred to are requested to communicate at once with Mr. Ford, Superintendent of the Botanical and Afforestation Department.

In my Circular despatch of the 19th of August last, I referred to an intended investigation of Malaria.

A Commission has now been appointed for the purpose and is about to proceed to Africa.

The Commissioners will report from time to time, to a Committee appointed jointly by the Royal Society and myself, who will exercise a general supervision over the enquiry.

It has been suggested by this Committee, that, in view of the possible connection of Malaria with mosquitoes, it is desirable to obtain exact knowledge of the different species of mosquitoes and allied insects in the various tropical colonies. I will therefore ask you, if there are facilities for the purpose, to be good enough to take the necessary steps at your early convenience to have collections made of the winged insects in the colony which bite men or animals.

I enclose a printed copy of directions, which have been drawn up by the British Museum for the guidance of those who may be employed on the work, and would add that several specimens of each kind of insect should be obtained, and that they should be sent direct to the British Museum (Natural History), Cromwell Road, London, S.W., to be examined and classified. A first series of the specimens will be retained by the Museum, whilst the duplicates will be available for distribution as may be desired.

As the question of the scientific investigation of Malaria is one to which I attach great importance, I trust that every effort will be made to carry out as speedily and as thoroughly as possible the directions contained in this despatch.

General Rios, late Governor-General of the Philippines, left Manila on board the homeward-bound transport *Montserant* on the 16th January.

#### KOWLOON, LAND AND BUILDING CO., LIMITED.

The tenth ordinary meeting of shareholders in the above Company was held at the Company's office, Victoria Buildings, on 1st Feb. There were present, Messrs. Henderson (chairman), E. Jones, Hughes, J. H. Cox, J. Goosmann (directors), M. S. Northcote, C. E. George, A. Rodger, W. H. Purcell, E. J. Holmes, A. O. D. Gourdin, and A. Shelton Hooper (secretary).

The SECRETARY read the notice convening the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN said:—Gentlemen, the report laid before you, which I will ask you to consider as read, so closely resembles that of last year that there is really nothing fresh to say in regard to the position of the Company. Charges are a little less, and rents have improved. There exists apparently a very good demand for houses such as we have at Kowloon, and we have been able to raise the rents somewhat without doing any of our tenants. That property has been fully maintained at a cost of something just a little over last year. I think that is all I have to say. If there are any questions to ask I shall be happy to reply to them.

Mr. HOLMES—There is only one question I would like to ask and that in reference to the item "Accounts receivable \$968.16." Does that refer to rents?

The CHAIRMAN—Yes, the month's rents.

On the motion of the CHAIRMAN, seconded by Mr. HOLMES, the report and accounts were adopted.

On the motion of Mr. GEORGE, seconded by Mr. RODGER, Messrs. Henderson and Goosmann were re-elected directors.

On the motion of Mr. GOURDIN, seconded by Mr. PURCELL, Messrs. T. Arnold and W. H. Gaskell were re-elected directors.

This was all the business.

#### THE HONGKONG, CANTON, AND MACAO STEAMBOAT CO., LIMITED.

On 30th Jan. at noon, the 65th ordinary half-yearly meeting of the shareholders in the Hongkong, Canton, and Macao Steamboat Company, Limited, was held at the office of the Company at No. 18, Bank Buildings, Queen's Road Central, for the purpose of receiving a report of the directors, together with a statement of accounts, declaring a dividend, and electing auditors. The chair was occupied by the Hon. E. R. Bellios. There were also present, the Hon. J. J. Bell-Irving, Messrs. N. A. Slep, E. A. Gomes, C. Beermann (directors), T. Arnold (secretary), A. A. Cruz, J. G. Rocha, C. N. Young, W. E. Clarke, G. J. Anderson, G. Sharp, E. J. Moses, A. Depison, J. Goosmann, E. George, Thos. Yale, and R. M. Mehta.

The SECRETARY read the notice convening the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN said:—Gentlemen, we will with your permission take the report and accounts as read. There is but little in connection therewith for me to remark upon. On the whole, I think that the result of the half-year's working may be considered satisfactory, enabling us, as it does, with the aid of the amount brought forward from the previous account, to declare our usual dividend and, at the same time, write a substantial sum off the book value of the steamers. We have been working somewhat at a disadvantage during the latter months of the year, owing to the withdrawal of the *Heungshan* for a lengthened period for rather extensive repairs to her machinery and boilers. In the last report it was stated that the loss consequent upon the *Powin*'s collision would be charged to the depreciation and insurance fund, but the amount being comparatively small your directors have thought it better to provide for it in the profit and loss account and leave the reserve intact. The Praya Reclamation Works are now sufficiently advanced for us to arrange for the erection of our new wharf, as nearly as possible on the old site occupied by the company for over 30 years. The material has already been ordered and we hope to see the structure completed before the end of this year. With regard to our investments, I may say that every loan on mortgage shows an ample margin, while the shares stand in our books at a figure



considerably under their present market value. In addition to this we have the respectable sum of \$34,000 at the credit of our investment fluctuation account. With these few remarks, gentlemen, I will propose the adoption of the report and accounts, but before doing so I shall be pleased to answer any questions which may suggest themselves to shareholders.

No questions being asked, the report and accounts were adopted, on the motion of the CHAIRMAN, seconded by Mr. GEORGE.

On the motion of Mr. ANDERSON, seconded by Mr. MOSES, Messrs. A. O'D. Gourdin and F. Henderson were re-elected auditors.

This was all the business. Dividend warrants will be ready to-day.

### THE HONGKONG ICE CO., LIMITED.

The following is the eighteenth annual report of the Hongkong Ice Co., Limited, to be submitted to the meeting to be held on the 8th February:—

The General Managers have pleasure in submitting to the shareholders a statement of the Company's accounts for the year 1898.

Including \$1,440.52 brought forward from last year and after deducting \$10,000 paid on the 27th July last as an interim dividend of \$2 per share, the balance at credit of profit and loss is \$59,984.14 which it is recommended should be appropriated as follows:—

A final dividend of \$6 50 per share \$32,500.00  
To write off property account \$25,000.00  
To carry forward \$ 2,484.14

\$59,984.14

The extension to the works referred to in the report for 1897 has now been almost completed, but owing to the continued increase in the demand for the Company's product a further outlay for plant estimated at \$38,000 will be necessary during the current year.

JARDINE, MATHESON & Co.,  
General Managers.

Hongkong, 30th January, 1899.

ASSETS.		\$	c.
Property account		\$32,000.00	
Extension account		68,802.67	
Invested in:			120,802.67
Hongkong Fire Insurance Co.'s share		225.00	
Canton Insurance Office's share		150.00	
China Fire Insurance Co.'s share		85.00	
Debentures of Hongkong and Kowloon			
Wharf and Godown Co., Limited		10,000.00	
Mortgage on property		50,000.00	
Cash on hand		168.89	
Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, Current account		12,522.61	
Outstanding accounts		2,662.97	
Accounts payable		1,009.42	
Ice on hand		180.00	
Coal on hand		100.00	
		\$197,396.58	

LIABILITIES.		\$	c.
Capital		125,000.00	
Accounts payable		8,214.90	
Ammonia reserve account		4,197.52	
Profit and loss account		59,984.14	
		\$197,396.56	

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.		\$	c.
To salaries, wages and general trade expenses		27,428.22	
To value of one share in the China Fire Insurance Company written down from \$92.50		7.50	
To General Managers' commission		2,000.00	
To auditor's fee		100.00	
		29,535.72	
To interim dividend of 8 per cent. paid on 27th July, 1898		10,000.00	
To balance		59,984.14	
		\$99,519.86	

		\$	c.
By balance brought forward from last year		1,440.52	
By receipts for ice during the year, value of stock on hand, &c.		93,590.57	
By rents received (less Crown rents and taxes paid)		1,603.78	
By interest		2,864.99	
To transfer fees		20.00	
		\$99,519.86	

### ROYAL HONGKONG YACHT CLUB.

THIRD RACE FOR R.E. CUP, JANUARY 29th.  
Course:—From a line off Police Pier, Kowloon, leaving Stonecutters Island to port, round the Coweichow (or Kaukuns) Rock to port, and return, passing Stonecutters Island to starboard, to starting line, 16 miles.

STARTERS.	HANDICAP.
Erica	Mr. A. Denison scratch allows
Maid Marian	W. J. Hastings 46 sec.
Bonito	Major Koe 48 "
Phoebe	Hon. F. H. May 2min. 5 "
Ladybird	Mr. C. D. Wilkinson 5 " 9 "
Dart	Dr. Clarke 7 " 28 "
Princess	Officers R.A. 7 " 58 "

There was a moderate east wind at the start and the line was crossed by the boats fairly well together, Maid Marian, Phoebe, and Erica being in the van. In the run to Stonecutters Dart showed remarkable qualities, running through the fleet into a good second place to Erica. Behind Stonecutters the wind was very light and patchy, and the boats changed places very freely, but Erica kept the lead and caught the strong wind off the West point of the Island first, then came Maid Marian and Ladybird. After passing Green Island the wind died away and the boats drifted with the tide for over an hour, when a light east wind carried them down to the rock off Coweichow, when the order was Erica, Phoebe, Maid Marian in the first half minute, then Ladybird Bonito and Princess, with Dart some time after. After rounding the mark the wind increased and Erica and Phoebe, which had both kept well to windward, got the benefit of it first and went away from the Maid; Bonito also went into fourth place. A lucky slant of wind off the lee side of Stonecutters put Phoebe into first place, but she was passed again by Erica under the Yau-matee shore, and the line was crossed in the following order:—

Finish.	Time.	Corrected time.	Points.
Erica	3 8 1	3 8 1	4
Phoebe	3 8 25	3 6 20	10
Maid Marian	3 10 8	3 9 22	1
Bonito	3 13 10	3 12 22	
Ladybird	3 18 12	3 18 3	
Princess	3 21 30	3 18 32	
Dart	3 32 53	3 25 25	

The second race in this competition, sailed on Saturday, the 28th instant, was not finished in time.

### THE ROYAL HONGKONG GOLF CLUB.

BEST SCORE CUP FOR JANUARY.

There were only twenty-two entries during the month, and following are the returns handed in:—

Capt. Urmston, R.M.L.I.	81	0	81
Mr. E. P. Mackay	93	11	82
Mr. C. A. Jones	96	8	88
Lieut. Farie, R.N.	105	12	93
Mr. W. J. Saunders	100	7	93

### CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.]

### THE ALLEGED FRENCH EXCESSES AT KAOCHOW AND LOOCHOW.—AN OFFICAL CONTRADICTION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR,—Respecting the advertisement No. 354 in your valuable paper of yesterday and this morning headed "Statement from the inhabitants of Kaochow and Loochow," I beg to state that I have received to-day a declaration from a highly respectable European coming from Kaochow who knows the facts well. That gentleman affirms that no Chinaman has been killed by French soldiers unless in the act of attacking their military posts.

Admiral de Beaumont has had a proclamation published in Chinese advising anybody who might be attacked by pirates or robbers to ask from the next French military post for protection, which would be immediately granted.

About three weeks ago a gang of pirates plundered the house of a Chinese widow and

stole her cattle. Twelve French soldiers were sent in pursuit of the pirates, who were caught while preparing to sail away and put to death on the spot.

A Chinaman who was suspected of being an accomplice in that criminal attack has been imprisoned in the French fort and on the demand of the villagers was let free on the morrow under bail.

All the Chinese dealers at Kaochow feel secure since the proclamation of Admiral de Beaumont has been posted and they are asking permission to trade at Kwangchowwan. Every one who has settled there is highly satisfied.

A Cantonese dealer who has recently come back from Kwangchowwan intends to go there again shortly with a new supply of goods. A great many Chinese labourers are employed at Kwangchowwan and they are fully satisfied with their earning 60 cents a day.

It is entirely false that French soldiers have robbed young women and girls of their virtue. I maintain that the discipline of the French Army and Navy is as strict as in any troops in the whole world. Any misdemeanour would be severely punished.—I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant.

LEON GME. LE ROUX.

Consul for France at Hongkong,  
Hongkong, 2nd February, 1899.

### THE SHANGHAI BRANCH OF THE CHINA ASSOCIATION ON THE SITUATION.

"A memorandum upon the present conditions of foreign trade in China" has been issued by the Shanghai Branch of the China Association, under date of 23rd January, 1899, and signed by Mr. C. J. Dudgeon, Chairman. The opening paragraphs read as follows:—

"In view of the interest which is now aroused at home in matters relating to China, it appears to the Committee of the Branch of the Association that the opportunity is favourable for the publication of some general expression of its views upon the question.

"There has, in the past, been general complaint of the want of expansive vitality in our trade with China, a complaint which has nowhere been more freely voiced than in China itself by those actively engaged in the commerce of the country; in many quarters, moreover, it has been alleged that the fault lay with the British trader himself. It is not the object of this memorandum to undertake any defence of the British trader against this charge, but it is desired to put forward some statement of what we believe to be the main reasons for the comparative absence of progressiveness of foreign trade with China; the opportunities of the country we well know, better probably than any one else, ought to be enormous, whether in the development of existing trade, or pushed into the hitherto unexploited field of China's natural wealth.

"We unhesitatingly attribute the slow progress made in the development of foreign trade with China to three main reasons, namely:—

"(a.) The entire absence of good faith on the part of China in the matter of her Treaty obligations.

"(b.) The absence of security for the investment of foreign capital in China anywhere outside the Treaty ports.

"(c.) The general apathy, and want of knowledge, which has, in the past, been displayed at home regarding Chinese affairs.

"Reasons (a) and (b) hinge on one another, and reason (c) supplies the explanation of how such a condition of affairs has come about.

"To residents in China it seems superfluous to repeat arguments in support of the charge made against the Chinese of bad faith as regards Treaty obligations, but so little seems to be known at home as to the actual conditions under which foreign trade with China is conducted, that a short statement regarding them may be permitted.

The Memorandum then goes on to deal in detail with the transit pass question, terminal taxation, the absence of the right of residence in the interior for purposes of trade, and the restrictions placed on inland navigation. We reproduce in full the remaining portion of the Memorandum:—

"It is the want of security which is the main reason for the slow development of foreign



trade with China, and the increased dangers involved in the present situation are not only sufficient to check any attempt at extension of enterprise, but are also a serious menace to the trade which already exists. The danger to-day is greater than it ever has been; the weakness and the corruption of the Peking Government stands confessed; its necessitous financial condition requires more help than ever from the Provinces in order to meet the foreign obligations which it now stands committed, and at the same time its power over the Provincial Government is becoming less and less by reason of the disaffection which is making itself apparent in many parts of the Empire. What then is likely to be the result upon foreign trade in the interior of the country? The revenue of the Imperial Maritime Customs, of which the Provinces have in the past received their share, is now practically wholly hypothecated for the service of the foreign loans; concurrently with this the demands from Peking for more money from the Provinces are increased; what can be the result other than an increase of inland taxation? As one means of supplying the deficiency in her revenue China has given notice of revision of the existing Foreign Customs' Tariff, but she offers no security for the remedying of the abuses of which we have for forty years complained; the proposition put forward by Li-Hung-chang, during his visit to London in 1896, was merely that the existing duties be doubled—an ingenious oriental expedient by which foreign trade should be made to bear the expenses of China's foreign indebtedness. Foreign traders in China are generally favourably disposed towards a revision of the existing tariff in China's favour, but they at the same time most distinctly demand that no such concession shall be granted, unless full security be given for the protection of foreign trade in the interior against the abuses experienced in the past. It seems plain that such security can only be found in the entire reform of the present corrupt system of Chinese Government; the undertaking of such a task no doubt bristles with difficulties, and entails responsibilities which will necessarily be complicated by international jealousies; it is nevertheless clear that unless the situation be boldly faced, still greater difficulties, and still greater international troubles, will have to be faced in the near future.

"China's financial necessities, brought about by the disaster of her war with Japan, and the obligations which she has in consequence incurred with European countries, make it plain that a continuance of her policy of exclusion, and contempt for foreign ways, cannot longer be maintained. Pressure from without, powerfully aided by an empty exchequer within, has already persuaded her so-called rulers that the vast natural resources of the country can no longer be permitted to remain undeveloped, and in consequence there are now put out to the world huge schemes of railway and mining enterprise, for the carrying out of which foreign capital is invited. It may, however, be taken for granted that before responding to the invitation, the capitalist will pause to look into the security which is offered; he may reasonably ask:—What power has the Central Government in Peking to protect concessions granted in the Provinces? What has been the experience in the past as to China's good faith in the matter of Treaty engagements and contracts? What amount of foreign control and supervision is to be allowed in the expenditure of the capital asked for? Is the present prohibition of foreign inland residence to be relaxed in order to enable foreign supervision of foreign inland enterprise? It is clear that in the answering of these questions is involved the further one:—Is this much talked of opening of China to be made real, or is it a sham? If it is to be made real, it is plainly necessary that strong foreign influence must be used to prevent repetition of the

chicanery of the past. With a weak Government in Peking, open to be played upon by the jealousies of competing Powers, no security can be looked for, except such as may be found in force; the establishment of a Government in Peking, which is not only strong, but which is in sympathy with the wishes and feelings of the nation at large, is, we believe, a first necessity if China is to be saved from partition. Signs are wanting, indeed, that partition has already begun; the policy pursued by Russia in Manchuria is plainly aimed against China's sovereignty in that province, and in the regulations recently issued by the Bureau of Mines and Railways it is significant to note that it is expressly stated that they are not to have effect in Manchuria or in the province of Shantung; it is not explicitly admitted, but the inference is clear, that already these regions are withdrawn from the field where British capital may be invested on equal terms with those given to other nations. On the question of progress and reform we believe that the new teachings have been widely accepted throughout the Empire, and we cannot but think that, in fostering and guiding this reform movement, Great Britain would be following a policy worthy of herself, and of her best traditions. It is plain that wholesale administrative and fiscal reform is imperative both for the salvation of China herself, as well as for the security of the foreign capital which she is inviting for the development of her resources. Suggestions as to methods of reform do not fall within the scope of this memorandum; suffice it to say that the practical side of the question has not been neglected by this Association, and it may be fairly claimed that the British Government has received, from its Ministers, Consuls, and Merchants, a sufficiency of facts, opinions and suggestions from which a definite and resolute policy might long ago have been deduced. The future of our relations with China may safely be gauged by the experience of our relations with China in the past; nothing has ever been gained from China except through pressure, backed by force, and nothing ever will be gained from her except by the same means. Great Britain is to-day looking with some anxiety for new fields for her exports; no finer field in the world exists than in China; other nations also are equally anxious for the peaceful development of the vast commercial possibilities of this country; let the nations who are so interested, and whose aims are not territorial aggrandisement, join together in exerting the necessary pressure for reform, through which alone the required security for trade can be found, the integrity of the Empire maintained, and the door of trade kept open to all on equal terms.

"For the carrying out of schemes of reform, it is, as has been said, necessary that there must be some foundation of strength upon which to base action; naturally this ought to be supplied by Peking, the Central Government there being made an effective power for the execution of its commands throughout the Empire; for it is plain that, in the absence of a dominating central power—a power strong enough to maintain the Empire's integrity—there need be no further talk about the maintenance of the 'open door' and equality of trading opportunity, concerning which our statesmen have said so much. It is however a great error to proceed on the assumption that the few high officials who, with the Court, may be said to constitute the Central Government are desirous of seeing China strong, or of maintaining the integrity of the Empire. The people wish it, but public opinion can scarcely make itself heard, much less can it be proclaimed in a way that will influence the Government. Those in power probably foresee that without reform China as a nation is doomed, but arguments tending to impress this fact upon her rulers are wasted; it is sufficient for them that the change will not affect them personally. If China is to be saved, she will have to be saved in spite of her Government; Great Britain cannot look for any assistance from that quarter, on the contrary, she must be prepared to meet with sullen opposition from those whom she would succour. It is this weakness and corruption in Peking which threatens the disruption and partition of the Empire, and it may be reasonably suggested that it was some shadowy conception of this fact, and an unwillingness to accept the responsibilities of maintain-

ing Peking authority, which brought into being the alternative policy to that of the 'open door', namely that of the 'sphere of influence'—needless to say that the two policies are directly opposed to one another. But whether China be maintained intact, or whether China be partitioned, the necessity for reform remains the same, the only difference being that whereas in the former case the reform measures would emanate from one strong centre and be applied to the Empire at large, in the latter case they would be applied over restricted areas by the occupants of 'spheres'. We submit that the jealousies and complications in jurisdictional matters, which must inevitably arise between the different occupants form a far more serious danger to the general peace than any which is entailed in a bold policy for the maintenance of China's integrity with a central point of strength. Great things may be judged by small, and the jealousies, and consequent dangers, involved in the 'sphere of influence' policy are to-day being illustrated in Shanghai through the claims of one nation to exclusive jurisdiction over parts of these Settlements, in which we maintain the door is open to all.

"We say then, that the one thing wanted for the development of trade, for the protection of capital, and for the extension to enterprise in China, is security, and we say that such security must be sought in fiscal and administrative reform of the country, which can only be effected through pressure from without, and we further say that the vast preponderance of British interests in China clearly demand that Great Britain shall lead and guide the movement. We attribute the hitherto neglect to the China question by our Government, and the policy of drift into which we have fallen, to a mistaken estimate of the strength of British prestige in the Far East, coupled with a fallacious belief in the power of China herself; other nations, never in the field, and comparatively unhampered by traditions of the past, have seemingly been better able to interpret events in the light of common experience, and have found opportunity in our complaisance and inactivity to exploit the situation to our disadvantage. We do not wish to concern ourselves with any imperfectly understood catch phrases such as 'open door' or 'sphere of influence', further than to say that Great Britain's sphere of influence should be wherever British trade preponderates, with the door open for equal trading opportunity to all; this is an ideal which can never be reached without resolute determination on the part of the British Cabinet to lead and not to follow in Peking. We do not hide from ourselves the difficulties which must be faced in order to bring about China's reform, and we therefore urge that Great Britain, in leading the movement, should endeavour to obtain the co-operation of other great nations who have like aims and interests with ourselves."

#### THE PHILIPPINES COMMISSION.

We are given to understand that telegraphic information has been received from Washington to the effect that President McKinley in appointing a Commission to proceed to the Philippines has limited the scope of its usefulness in that he has declined to have associated with the United States Commissioners representatives of the Filipino National Government. On the face of it, it would seem that there must be some misunderstanding on this point, or some misreading of the telegrams, for it is hard to see how such a Commission can arrive at a satisfactory solution of the complex Philippines problem unless it is aided in its inquiries by influential Filipinos, who could escort the American Commissioners to Malolos, the national capital, and to any places in the interior which they may desire to visit for the purpose of observing the conditions prevailing in the islands and conducting inquiries amongst the natives of all classes.

If the Commission is appointed with a view to ascertaining the truth respecting the aspirations of the people, their title to self-government, and the degree of unanimity existing amongst the various islanders in order, as Renter puts it in a recent message, to keep President McKinley properly advised of the truth respecting the state of affairs in

\* Whilst writing, practical demonstration is received of the power of the Chinese authorities to protect new enterprise; we learn to-day that a riotous mob has destroyed the works in connection with the opening of a mine in the Ningpo district (comparatively close to Shanghai), and that the European Manager barely escaped with his life. No doubt the matter will be made one of representation to Peking. Prompt and decisive action on the spot would be more to the point.



the islands, one would have thought that nothing could suit the book of the Commissioners better than the aid to investigate affairs would ensue from association with prominent Filipinos. The Commission appointed locally by General Otis has held conferences from day to day with the Commission appointed by the Filipino Government, and it would naturally be assumed that the superior Commission appointed by the President would follow the same course. It would indeed be a matter for regret, if, as we are informed, President McKinley has negatived the representations made to him by General Aguinaldo's special envoy, Mr. Felipe Agoncillo, to allow representatives of the National Government to confer with and assist the Commissioners to arrive at a proper understanding respecting the actual condition of affairs in the Philippines.

We understand, however, that the Filipinos are not at all satisfied with the announcement respecting the appointment of the Commission, because they have information from what they consider a reliable source which indicates that the McKinley Administration declines to recognize the National Government in any way. That the Filipinos are determined to assert their claim to recognition and independence there can be no doubt after the proclamations of General Aguinaldo, the refusal to permit U.S. troops to land at Iloilo, and the proclamation of a Republic, which has, we understand, been notified to the Powers.

### THE SITUATION IN THE PHILIPPINES.

We take the following items referring to the situation in the Philippines from the *Manila Times*:

#### WOMEN WANT TO FIGHT.

The *Republica Filipina* to-day (21st January) published a telegram from Malolos in these terms:—"Splendid demonstration of the Cavite women, without distinction of class or age, unanimously requested with enthusiasm to be permitted to take the place of men, if the men perish in the struggle against the Americans for the defence of the independence of the Philippines. They say that irrespective of the weakness of their sex, the love of their country will make them strong and will animate them to keen combat against the Americans."

#### REPORTED PLOT AGAINST AGUINALDO.

A telegram published in the *Republica* to-day (23rd January) says that a letter has been found in Baliway, offering \$50,000 reward for the assassination of Aguinaldo. The telegram also says the Malolos Congress has passed a vote of confidence in Aguinaldo, as president of the Nation, that he is to declare war against the Americans whenever he may think fit; and that Paterno has asked to be placed in the front rank in the fight. The *Republica* is Paterno's paper.

#### AMICABLE SETTLEMENT IN VIEW.

[Independencia.]

A conference between the American and Spanish commissioners was held Sunday afternoon (22nd January) and lasted from 3 to 7 p.m. We publish what passed without comments. We understand the natural impatience of the country to know anything connected with its future. The actual situation is insupportable; we must have a definite solution soon.

The conference was begun on the understanding that the independence of the Philippines was to be recognized. This was not objected to as it has been in former conferences. The American commissioners were agreeable to send to Washington the basis on which the Philippine Government would agree to a protectorate and offered for the consideration of our representatives the following point—America is to exercise over the Philippines an informal protectorate from the moment its independence is recognized till the treaty of protectorate is signed and ratified. This matter was discussed, and the principal argument on the American side was that the Philippines should not be left without protection against outside attack and they again stated that America could not possibly have any bad intentions toward this country. After this point had been thoroughly discussed the commissioners of our Government, in obedience to instructions received, agreed to the desire of the

Americans. Other questions were also ventilated in yesterday's session. The Philippine members of the commission entreated the Americans that while no definite agreement had been come to on the political situation of the Philippines America was not to exercise any act of sovereignty over them, but to continue the military occupation, and General Hughes and his companions did not make any objection to this. Our commissioners insisted in their petition that the vessels seized by the Americans should be returned to the Filipinos and that they should be allowed to sail here flying our own flag. This matter was not quite settled but the answer was that all measures would be taken so that it might be satisfactorily settled as soon as possible.

The last point discussed was that the sending of more troops here by the Americans implied a desire to continue the war even if they did not actually come to blows, but the Americans said they were ready to prove by authentic telegrams that these forces were intended to relieve those already here.

The meeting broke up with friendly manifestations on both sides, but this will not be the last conference, as many people have believed and wished.

#### PRESIDENTIAL DECREE.

With the object of solemnizing the glorious proclamation of the Republic and by the powers invested in me by the constitution and in accord with the Council, I decree the following:

Art. 1.—The Spaniards who do not belong to the Spanish regular army and those of the regular army who are suffering from serious wounds or diseases will be liberated. The goods and chattels of said prisoners and individuals in the regular Spanish army will be retained till it is decided what should be done to them. All sacardots belonging to the regular Spanish clergy, even those occupying the highest ecclesiastical positions, and all individuals connected with them although they do not actually belong to the clergy will be expelled.

Art. 2.—The government will nominate a commission, mixed, military and civil, to enquire into the rights of those who wish to benefit by this decree and to find out if they have scrupulously respected the rules of war established among civilized nations. This commission will also enquire into the rights of the Philippine prisoners who have been taken by the civil and military authorities so that those who deserve it may be pardoned and who have not a just case against them may be liberated. Lastly the commission will examine into all seizures of goods both of Filipinos and Spaniards who have not been prisoners of war, so that the council may confirm otherwise according to the rights of the case.

Art. 3.—The authorities, civil and military, will give to the commission all the necessary data and help so that they may carry out this decree.

Given in Malolos on January 23rd, 1899.

(Signed)

The President of the Republic  
EMILIO AGUINALDO.  
President of the Council  
APOLINARIO MABINI

#### CONFISCATION OF CLERICAL PROPERTY.

It has been declared in an additional article of the Filipino constitution that from the 24th of May, the date of the constitution of the dictatorial government in Cavite, the restitution to the Philippine state of all haciendas, buildings, and all other property which the religious corporations had in these islands should be made in spite of article 33 of the Spanish civil code which was declared in force provisionally. The government has completely annulled all force which said article might have in connection with the religious corporations as it is completely contrary to and incompatible with independence, public order and tranquility.

#### AT ILOILO.

A correspondent on board the transport *Newport* in Iloilo bay writes under date January 16th that the whole American troops consisting of the 18th Infantry, the Iowa Volunteers and Light Battery "G," 6th Artillery, are still kept on board the transports *Newport*, *Arizona*, and *Pennsylvania*, wondering and waiting. The insurgents can be seen working busily throwing up breastworks on both sides of the bay. There

are now at least 20,000 insurgents in the town; they have given permission to the Americans to go ashore to buy fruit, etc., or for other purposes provided they are unarmed. A mountain battery has been organized in Light Battery "G," 6th Artillery, with two Hotchkiss and two Gatlings.

### MANILA AND HONGKONG.

There is much food for reflection in the fact that the sunken Spanish cruisers *Isla de Cuba* and *Isla de Luzon*, after being floated by Hongkong engineers, had to be sent over to Hongkong for repairs. It is strange how completely Manila is dependent on Hongkong. It is anomalous also, for the two places ought to occupy exactly opposite positions relatively, if natural advantages counted for anything. When Manila was the greatest port in the orient, the "Pearl of the Orient," Hongkong was just a bare brown lump of rock in the sea. While Manila produces everything that the tropics can produce, Hongkong can grow practically nothing but a wiry grass. Manila bay is easy of approach; Hongkong harbour is the contrary, as shown by the number of ship wrecks in the vicinity, and by the number of navigators who refuse to take a ship near the place in the night, though well lighted. The land in the immediate vicinity of Manila provides food enough to contribute considerably to feed the population; the land around Hongkong grows only a crop of granite boulders, for miles and miles along the neighboring hills on the mainland. Yet Manila depends on Hongkong. Manila is almost a suburb of Hongkong.

There is coal in various parts of the Philippines; yet steamers in Manila fill their bunkers with coal brought from Hongkong, though Hongkong has no coal-beds within hundreds of miles. There is kerosine in the Philippine Islands, waiting to be tapped; yet Manila buys kerosine from Hongkong, which has not an oil-spread near it. Cotton grows wild all over the Philippines but the inhabitants buy cotton garments from Hongkong, which does not grow a pound of cotton.

On the other hand, the Philippines do indeed grow sugar, and it is refined in Hongkong. Hongkong has several great prosperous sugar refineries, making millions of dollars out of Philippine sugar, while the refineries in the Philippines are struggling concerns not to be compared with them. Manila grows hemp—and it is the Hongkong Ropeworks that supplies the world. And when communication between Manila and Hongkong is out off, in course of war, it is the fertile luxuriantly-productive Manila that starves, instead of the barren bit of brown rock.—*Manila Times*.

### NOTES ON THE GUNS AT KIMPAT FORTS.

Two guns by Krupp; calibre 28 centimetres (about 11 inches), weight 50 tons. Weight of projectile, 760 pounds.

Weight of powder 352 pounds.

These guns are mounted *en barbette* and have an all round fire.

Over two years ago these guns were fired (by order of the General then in charge) with a full charge of Chinese cracker powder made up to imitate the proper prismatic powder.

The first round fired so strained the gun that the breech could not be opened. Instead of taking warning by this, the General ordered the second gun to be fired; the result was that the gun burst, blowing the entire breech, weighing about 4½ tons, to the rear killing some 20 soldiers. The General of course tried to make out that the guns were made of inferior metal, etc., etc. but an investigation proved that the steel was really of the very highest quality and the cause of the bursting entirely due to the use of the aforesaid Chinese cracker powder.

Several experts (principally German) examined these guns and pronounced them both utterly ruined.

The Chinese, however, could not realize that the unburst gun could be quite useless so they requested the Shanghai Arsenal to send Mr. Cornish to examine these guns and he was desired to report on the possibility of repairing them. His report fully endorsed those already given by other experts, but he undertook to



make the guns so that they could be fired but gave no guarantee that they would not burst on account of the severe strain to which they had been subjected.

The guns were shipped to Shanghai and duly repaired, by having a screw breech made with an interrupted screw somewhat on the Armstrong principle.

On Tuesday, 10th inst., both guns were fired, each with two full charges of 352 pounds brown prismatic powder and steel shot each weighing 760 pounds. The target selected was a small white rock on the West Brothers Island 4,900 yards distant. The first round from each gun made good practice. They were directed by Mr. Cornish and Mr. Hekman (who was representing Krupp's interest.) The second shots fired by native gunners did not make such good shooting, both falling somewhat short of the target.

Owing to the uncertainty that existed as to the strength of the guns, they were fired by electricity.

The Europeans present were Captain Slade of the *Algerine*, Mr. Fraser, H.B.M. Consul, Mr. Graham, of Jardine, Matheson & Co., Mr. Hekman, of the Chinese Cruiser *Hai Yung*, and Mr. Cornish.

The officials representing the Viceroy and the General were witnesses of the firing from a distance. When everything was safely over they hastened to the Fort to join with the foreigners present in congratulating Mr. Cornish on the success of the firing.—*Foochow Echo*

#### ARREST OF RAILWAY DIRECTOR-GENERAL HU.

The *N. C. Daily News* publishes the following special telegram dated Peking, 28th January, with the accompanying editorial note:—

Upon receipt of secret denunciations by a cabal at the head of which are Prince Ching, Kang Yi, President of the Board of Punishments, and General Tung Fushiang, accusing Director-General Hu of the Northern Railways of embezzling the Imperial Railway funds and making a secret alliance with Foreign Powers, the Empress Dowager issued a secret edict last night ordering the arrest of Director-General Hu for examination into his conduct, and appointing Hsu Ching-cheng, ex-Minister to Germany, etc., as Acting Director-General pending the result of the investigations. It is stated that Hu's predilection for the British aroused the jealousy of the pro-Russian clique and these, aided by the persons above-named who headed the denunciation, caused Hu's downfall, the results of which may be very serious not only to Hu himself but also to British prestige.

[It will, no doubt, be remembered that H.E. Hu was Governor of Peking. He was removed from that post to make room for a Manchurian, and appointed to the Tsungli Yamen. A few days afterwards he was removed from the Yamen on the plea that his railway duties took up all his time, and he has now been sacrificed to the reactionaries. Hsu Ching-cheng is a well-known Anglophobe.—ED.]

#### THE REBELLION IN ANHUI.

The following Imperial edict concerning the disturbances in Central China was issued on the 22nd January:—"The other day when we received news of the rising at Kuyang, Anhui province, we issued repeated instructions to Lin Kun-yi, Viceroy of the Liangkang provinces, and Teng Hua-hsi, Governor of Anhui, to act in concert in crushing the disturbances there. We now learn that desperadoes in Hsiayi district, Honan province, have also risen up in discontent, and it is to be feared that they will join the rebels of Kuyang and spread trouble in various directions. Having in mind, however, that of late years the districts joining the two provinces of Honan and Anhui have been the scene of crop failures and much consequent suffering amongst the inhabitants thereof, it may be that the risings above noted were due to a famine-stricken people seeking for food and then fearing lest the authorities call the delinquents to account they were led to raise the flag of rebellion in order to prevent capture and punishment. Although such practice in theory

is perfectly unpardonable there is yet an element in the present instance which calls for our pity and clemency. And, lest, in sending forth the Imperial armies to crush these rebellions, no distinction be made between those who voluntarily rebel and such as were forced to do so through lack of food, whereby the innocent and the guilty will suffer together—a proceeding at the thought of which our heart revolts—we hereby issue this edict calling upon our people to avoid the serious crime of rebellion. Furthermore, a short time ago, when the Governor of Anhui reported to us that the prefectures of Fengyang and Yun-chou were suffering from drought as well as floods we graciously commanded the Board of Revenue to remit funds at once to the distressed districts, and the Viceroy Liu and Governor Teng were also commanded to investigate the distress in order that when the funds arrived immediate aid could be dispensed. This shows that we think day and night concerning the welfare of our people; it may be, however, that the local authorities concerned are in fault this time and the people have suffered through their avarice and dishonesty and have so been forced into rebellion. If such be the case then not only the local authorities but also the high provincial officials cannot be free from blame. All should, therefore, at once seek to redeem their faults and while on the one hand be prepared to grant every relief to our suffering subjects, issue proclamations, on the other hand, calling upon the rebels to lay down their arms and come and accept the relief the withholding of which caused them to take up arms. Again, should it be discovered that the misconduct and avarice of the local authorities were really the cause of the above-noted troubles, we hereby command the said Viceroy and Governor to denounce such men with the greatest severity in order that the true delinquents may be punished. Care should also be taken to give every protection to the numerous missionary chapels, missionaries and converts scattered throughout the disturbed districts. Finally, strict discipline should be kept among the troops sent to crush the rebellion so that innocent people may not suffer from their outrages, while no mercy should be shown to rebel leaders and those who willingly join them against the government.

Naganking, 23rd January.

The cities of Kuyang and Mengcheng besieged by the rebels have fallen into their hands. Kuyang was carried by assault on the 21st instant and the magistrate, deputy magistrate, and Commandant of the garrison are reported to have been butchered at the orders of the rebel leader Niu. With the taking of the city nearly 2,000 men, women, and children are estimated to have fallen victims to the savage rebels. Rebel sympathisers opened the gates of Mengcheng and let the rebels in on the night of the 22nd. No other details: but it is stated that the rebels are now on their way to-day to capture the cities of Shunchou and Kanchou. Rumours credit the Honanese who came across the borders to assist the Anhui rebels with supernatural recklessness and prowess; hence, wherever the militia and local troops meet them, the former invariably get panic-stricken and make no effort to withstand the onslaught of the enemy.—*N. C. Daily News*.

#### SHOUCHUN ATTACKED.

[SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE "DAILY PRESS."]

SHANGHAI, 31st January.

The Anhui Rebels having defeated General Kuo at Kuyang are now attacking Kuo's headquarters at Shouchun.

#### THE REBELLION IN HUPEH.

Shanghai, 25th January.

The *Universal Gazette* publishes the following telegram, dated the 23rd instant, concerning the Hupeh rebels who, as already noted in these columns captured the city of Changlo in the early portion of the current month:—"On the dividing line of Yang and Lo districts are two walled and fortified hamlets called Hungyichai and Paiyichai, which are great strategical points and which were also captured by the rebels. One of these hamlets has been recaptured by the Imperial troops who from that point of

vantage are using their quick-firing guns on the other hamlet with such effect that the rebels are expected to evacuate the place."

Apropos of the above, the phrase "Yang and Lo districts" which properly means the district cities of Changyang and Changlo, it would appear that Viceroy Chang's troops in their march from the former city to recapture the latter, were confronted by the rebels at the fortified hamlets above named which must therefore be taken before Changlo can be retaken. A Wuchang telegram received by local mandarins on Monday night states that if the Governor of Hunan can muster enough forces to overawe the Hunan malcontents, Viceroy Chang will be able with his to crush the Hupeh rebellion before the end of the present Chinese year. Governor Yu of Hunan, however, not being popular in that province, it is feared that he will not be able to prevent Hunanese reinforcements from joining the Hupeh rebels.—*N. C. Daily News*.

#### THE REBELLION IN SZECHUAN.

YU MAN-TZE CAPTURED.

The following native official telegram dated Chungking, the 24th January, is published in the *Universal Gazette*:—"On the 16th instant H. E. Wang Chih-chun, Provincial Treasurer of Szechuan, at the head of 14 battalions, gave the command for them to march in two directions to attack the enemy. On the 17th and 18th instant the troops encountered the rebels on five occasions, the latter fighting most fiercely, but they were driven backwards and four of their strongholds captured. Yu Man-tze was therefore compelled to retreat into his own special stronghold in the hills, but being closely pursued by the troops he had no time to run away, and being completely surrounded he was compelled to pray to be allowed to surrender. The French priest Fleury has therefore been rescued and sent to Chungking to the care of the French Consul. H.E. Wang is now holding Lung-shuichen (Yu's stronghold) in force and will there await instructions from Peking as to what to do with the rebels in his hands. H.E. has also sent troops to disperse the various rebel bands scattered throughout the province and no more trouble is expected from them."—*N. C. Daily News*.

#### A MISSIONARY'S HOUSE DESTROYED BY FIRE.

FATAL RESULTS.

The following sad news has been supplied to the *Japan Times* by the Rev. D. S. Spencer of Nagoya, now staying with his brother at Aoyama:—

"Telegrams have reached Tokyo conveying the sad information that during the night of the 18th January the Methodist Mission House occupied by Rev. R. P. Alexander and family was completely destroyed with its contents by fire. Mrs. Alexander received injuries from which she soon died, while Mr. Alexander and their little son and only child were also injured, but are reported as doing well. Their cook's wife is also reported as having received fatal injuries.

"The funeral of Mrs. Alexander is to take place in Hirosaki, but the exact time has not yet been reported.

"No further definite information is at hand either as to the cause of the fire or its extent, but the presumption is that the fire originated in the dwelling house.

"The very large circle of friends of Mr. and Mrs. Alexander both here and in America will feel the force of this terrible shock."

The *Universal Gazette's* Peking correspondent telegraphs that the secret edict reported to have been sent by the Empress Dowager to the Governor of Chinese Turkestan the other day was, after all, not meant to recall the exiled Chang Yin-huan, but that, if it is any comfort to his friends to know, the edict merely cancelled the sentence of banishment for life to imprisonment for life. This looks the same, but really absolves the exile from working on the post-roads.—*N. C. Daily News*.



## SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL COUNCIL.

The polling for the Municipal Councillors at Shanghai resulted as follows:—

J. S. Fearon	263
J. Prentice	259
R. Inglis	253
D. M. Moses	253
E. A. Hewett	244
F. Anderson	243
E. B. Skottowe	240
H. R. Kinnear	211
M. Rohde	202
J. J. Buchheister	116

The first nine only were elected.

ANOTHER SERIOUS FIRE  
AT SHANGHAI.

Shanghai, 27th January.

A large area of the populous district of Nam-tao, at the south eastern side of the city was laid in ashes this morning and the various insurance companies are again badly bitten. The fire originated in a tea-house next to the native customs station and quickly spread to the adjoining shops and houses, many hongs in the neighbourhood being in quite a large way of business. The house where the fire started is said to be insured in Messrs. Jardine Matheson's Offices for Tls. 7,500. It was about 1 a.m. when it broke out and we are informed that within half an hour the native fire guilds from the City were on the scene and did what they could to arrest the progress of the flames. The bells in the foreign fire stations did not ring an alarm, but even if the firemen had turned out they could have done little or nothing owing to the want of water, though they might perhaps have been able to get one or two streams by means of their engines from the river. The fire practically burnt itself out and those who visited the scene to-day marvel that the native firemen with their poor appliances could do as much as they did towards staying its progress. Some 60 or 70 houses were destroyed. So far as we can gather the losses to the insurance companies are the Manchester Tls. 10,000; the Law, Union & Crown Tls. 8,000 or Tls. 9,000; Messrs. Jardine Matheson's various companies Tls. 7,500; South British Tls. 3,500; London Tls. 1,000; Royal Tls. 2,000; Lancashire Tls. 3,000; New Zealand Tls. 1,500, and even these figures we believe do not complete the list.—*China Gazette*.

## A ROUGH VOYAGE.

The C. N. Co.'s steamer *Ningpo*, Captain Phillips, arrived at Shanghai on the 24th January from Otaru (Japan) with a full cargo of coal. She has, as her general appearance proves, had a perilous time, and there is little doubt but were it not for her substantial and seaworthy design, she would have never weathered the gale. On the morning of the 14th inst. she left port under somewhat favourable circumstances the wind being variable and moderate. Five o'clock that evening the wind shifted to the westward, and at six to the north-east and blew a whole gale from 8 p.m. until noon. The following day a perfect hurricane was encountered, and Captain Phillips judiciously hove the vessel to. At 1 p.m. the barometer was at its lowest, namely 28.95, with a temperature of 5 degrees Fahr. The ship was little but masses of ice, the rigging were frozen into solid blocks, the ropes were a foot in diameter with ice, and the weather cloths on the upper bridge were walls of the same cold and cheerless substance. At half-past two the wind veered to the northward and commenced to moderate although still blowing a gale. By half-past nine the wind had fallen considerably, and the sea became less rough, when one independent almost perpendicular wave of gigantic proportions came rolling along into which the vessel plunged up to the foremast. The huge body of water breaking aboard swept the heavy ice chest over the side, smashed the main derrick in halves, and completely stove in the steel bulkhead of the saloon, flattened down the rails both of the upper and lower bridges and even carried away the awning spars of the former. Fortunately Mr. Pennel, the chief officer, who was on watch escaped without injury. The bridge ladders which were triced up were also carried away and the comrade's room stove in. All the boats were thrown out of the chocks and

two on the starboard side were stove in. Soon after daylight on the 16th, the weather having moderated, Capt. Phillips bore away for Hakodate Roads and anchored in Satsukari Bay at 1.50 a.m. on the 17th. During all the time they were visited with heavy snow and hail squalls. At noon on the 18th, having done all that was possible for the safety of the ship, a fresh departure was made, the wind blowing fresh from the north-west and west and then veering to north-west with moderate gale force as far as Oki-sima, thence moderate N.N.W. winds and nasty beam sea to port.—*N. C. Daily News*.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT OF THE  
JAPANESE NAVIGATION  
ENCOURAGEMENT LAW.

When the Government first submitted to the ninth Diet the Navigation Encouragement Law, it was estimated that the annual calls upon the Treasury to pay the subsidies would not exceed a million yen. Contrary to expectation, however, so many ships have since been built and passed the examination entitling them to the bounty, that the expense under this head in the thirty-second fiscal year threatens to reach four million yen. In view of this enormous expense, the Communications Department is trying to check the increase. Their investigations have resulted, says the *Osaka Mainichi*, in a proposal to reduce by 50 per cent. the bounty granted to ships built in foreign countries. This proposal, it is said, will be submitted to the Diet before the session closes.—*Kobe Chronicle*.

THE TRADE OF KOBE AND  
YOKOHAMA.

YOKOHAMA BEATEN BY SEVEN  
MILLION YEN.

The prediction made last year that the total trade of Kobe would show a considerable excess over that of Yokohama has proved correct, the returns now indicating that Kobe's trade exceeded that of Yokohama by almost seven million yen. Kobe has thus become the leading commercial port in Japan, though its exports do not as yet equal those of Yokohama. It appears that the exports from Kobe during last year amounted to ¥60,119,645, and the imports to ¥138,133,798, making a total of ¥198,353,442. Yokohama's exports were ¥80,312,835, and imports ¥111,024,140, making a total of ¥191,336,975. The large excess shown by the trade of Kobe over that of Yokohama is accounted for by the falling off in the export of raw silk from the latter port by almost 14 million yen compared with the previous year, but it must be remembered that the export of rice from Kobe, which usually bulks very largely in the returns, was also last year much below the average. The export of cotton yarn from Kobe in 1898 showed an increase of six million yen over the figures for the preceding year, copper an increase of ¥888,000 and matting of ¥710,000, while in the imports there was an increase of ¥15,290,000 in rice, ¥2,610,000 in raw cotton, ¥2,030,000 in sugar, and ¥780,000 in oilcake. The *Yushin Nippon*, from which we take this information, remarks that Yokohama's trade returns fluctuate according to the silk market, while the trade at Kobe is more general and therefore less likely to show such wide differences. There is little doubt in the mind of our contemporary that now Kobe has taken the premier position, the advantage will not only be retained but increased from year to year.—*Kobe Chronicle*.

## WEIHAIWEI.

17th January.

The sailors and marines were not quite forgotten about New Year time. The missionaries on the mainland invited the marines to a tea and magic lantern entertainment and lecture. Leave was prolonged till 9.30 p.m. by the officer in charge, and the men who responded to the invitation speak of having heartily enjoyed themselves. On Liukungtao, Mr. Mudditt, at the Institute, provided a meat-tea with plenty of bright singing and a lecture after it, also illustrated by the magic lantern, on two separate evenings.

On the first evening more than a hundred sat down to tea, mostly *Barfleur* men; on the second occasion most of them were from the *Undaunted*. Special leave was also kindly given on these evenings. It was a little change for the men and most of them, doubtless, greatly appreciated the effort to brighten their stay in this "dull place," as it is commonly called.

On the 9th inst. the *Barfleur* left for Korea and Nagasaki, and expected to be absent till the end of the month. The *Undaunted* and *Teacock* are still here; the latter runs to Chefoo once a week with the mails. The *Grafton* is looked for any day, and then the *Undaunted* will probably get a change to the South. This will be appreciated by officers and men, for the weather here has recently been very stormy and cold. Skating and sliding have been indulged in on a small scale, but there is no really good sheet of water near by for these healthful exercises.

The business of buying out the Chinese shopkeepers of Liukungtao seems to be proceeding fast, and in a short time they will have to remove from their premises, to the great disgust of most of them. Some, I hear, refused to take the money decided on for their places, but I am afraid that they will soon find that it is useless to resist. It is but fair to say that most of those who have rented or bought shops during the past seven months have done so with the full knowledge that at any time they might be compelled to turn out for the authorities to take possession.

Major Bower and a fellow officer reached us two days since. It will be remembered that he is commissioned to raise a regiment of one thousand Chinese to train as soldiers to serve under the Union Jack. It is understood that the gallant officer has had difficult and arduous undertakings entrusted to him in the past; but I question if he has ever had a more difficult task to accomplish than the one he is now entering on, or one that calls for more tact and patience. There will first of all be the difficulty of getting such a number of young men within the proper age limits; but even greater than that will be, I fear, the almost hopeless task of getting them to serve for a term of years, or rather to ensure the fulfilment of such an engagement, at least for a few years to come. But the pay will be good, no doubt, and they will be fed well; if from the first they are treated kindly and like fellow-humans, it will "pay" in every sense of the word.

The Imperial Chinese postal authorities are arranging to establish an office in Weihaiwei city. A bi- or tri-weekly courier will run between here and Chefoo, and it is hoped that arrangements will soon be made for a bag for Weihaiwei direct to be made up at Shanghai. This will be a great convenience to all concerned.—*N. C. Daily News* correspondent.

## MACAO.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Macao, 27th January.

A very curious accident occurred on Tuesday last in a lane near the Inner Harbour. About noon the report of a cannon was heard and very soon the locality was crowded by persons attracted by the sound. It appears that a Chinese merchant had a few old cannon, which he had bought many years ago, and they were kept in this lane, lying on the ground. Six Chinese children were playing the game of throwing cash, and one of the cash being lost a boy about twelve years of age lighted a match to look inside one of the cannon to see if the cash had rolled inside. No sooner had he brought the match to the cannon's mouth, however, than the gun went off. One of the children died a few minutes after the accident and all the others were burnt, some of them so severely that their recovery is despaired of. The gun is about six feet long. It appears that it must have been loaded with a full charge of powder, but no one knew that, not even the owner.

On Monday last written tenders for the kerosine and gunpowder monopolies were opened. The former was secured by the old farmer, Lee Kiang-chin, whose offer was \$17,000 odd, as against \$9,000, the price at which the monopoly was sold two



years ago. For the gunpowder monopoly more than \$31,000 was offered (\$15,000 was the price at which it was last let), but the offer was refused on the ground that the tender was not in order, so new tenders are to be received on the 6th February. The \$31,000 tender might have been accepted if the Government liked, as the securities were correct.

The members of the Leal Senado are going to try to do away with the ricksha monopoly, which will be a very good thing.

The Committee appointed for the acquisition of a dredger for the harbour will shortly invite tenders, and we hope that this time something will really be done. On at least four previous occasions there has been much noise on the subject without any result.

Sergeant Fernando José, whose rendition from Hongkong on a charge of defalcation took place recently, has been sentenced to ten years' penal servitude in one of the African colonies.

The murderer of Colonel Souza is to be tried on Saturday.

### HONGKONG.

There were 2,118 visitors to the City Hall Museum last week, of whom 190 were Europeans.

H.M.S. *Undaunted* arrived on Wednesday evening from Weihaiwei. H.M.S. *Bonaventure* arrived on Thursday from Manila.

Rules for the Signal Stations at Victoria Peak and Blackhead's Hill, in substitution for those contained in Government notification No. 278 of the 24th July, 1886, are published in the *Gazette*.

It is notified in the *Gazette* that owing to the continued scarcity of water the supply in the public mains at Kowloon will until further notice be turned on only from 6 a.m. to 9 a.m. and from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

The steamer *Trym*, which left Saigon on the 27th January, broke her tail shaft on the voyage. She was picked up by the *Autenor* off Cape Padaran on the 30th and towed to port, arriving on the 2nd February.

We are informed by Messrs. John D. Humphreys & Son, General Managers of the Queen Mines, Limited, that they have received the following telegram from the Mines:—"Queen Mine West cross cut (at the 400 feet level) have cut new reef, five feet wide; an average sample assayed 33 dwts to the ton."

Another stabbing case came before Commander Hastings at the Magistracy on the 30th January. It seems that on Saturday night a German sailor named Hugo Winter was making himself disagreeable in the Globe Tavern. He got across with some marines and soldiers, who followed him on his leaving. A short time afterwards one of the marines returned with a cut in his neck four inches long. The police were informed and Winter was arrested in the Sportsman's Arms by Sergeant Rogers. Defendant excused himself by saying that the marines got on him. He was sentenced to six weeks' hard labour.

The *Hupei* should have left the harbour on 26th Jan. but she was prevented from doing so by 26 of her crew refusing duty. They signed articles on Oct. 1st to commence work on the 1st November for six months. On 26th Jan. they sent two letters to the captain saying that they intended to leave the ship and that they wanted their pay. They subsequently refused duty, contending that they were justified in doing so after having given notice. In consequence Captain Quail summoned them to appear before the Harbour-Master on the 28th, when they were each sentenced to seven days' hard labour. Their idea was no doubt to spend China New Year in port.

The eighth annual meeting of members of the Institution of Engineers and Shipbuilders of Hongkong was held in their rooms, Praya Central, on Saturday night, Mr. W. Ramsay in the chair, when the report and accounts for 1898 were adopted and the following gentlemen elected as officers for the current year:—President, Mr. David Gillies; Hon. Secretary, Mr. W. S. Bailey; Hon. Treasurer, Mr. C. B. Buyers; Hon. Librarian, Mr. J. D. Christie. Committee of Management—Messrs. W. Ramsay, T. Skinner, J. W. Kinghorn, T. Banks, J. R. Mudie, J. Kirkwood, A. G. Aitken, A. Bain, J. D. Christie, R. Mitchell, O. Ordish, N. Mumford, J. Murphie, and J. Kyles.

A fire broke out in a row of lodging houses at Quarry Bay on 29th Jan. and the house involved was completely gutted. The fire brigade was promptly called and on their arrival, seeing that the extinction of the original fire was hopeless, they turned their attention to the adjoining tenements and prevented the conflagration spreading.

A Chinaman employed as a repairer with the Robinson Piano Co. expired suddenly on Wednesday in the store in Queen's Road. The Police were informed of the affair, and the body was removed to the mortuary. Death was ascertained to be due to the rupture of a blood vessel in the lung. The deceased had been suffering from phthisis for some time.

On Monday evening at about 5.45 a collision occurred near the Ice House Street wharf. The steam launch *America* was coming alongside the wharf when the steam launch *Langkat* backed out from her berth and striking the former amidships on the port side carried away her bulwarks and snapped the awning stanchions off short from abreast of the wheel right up to the quarter. The *Langkat* apparently received no damage.

During the voyage of the *Cheang Hock Kian* from Singapore a hole was cut in the box of a Chinaman and \$200 extracted. The money was subsequently found in the possession of another Chinese passenger, who was given into custody on the arrival of the steamer in the harbour on Tuesday. When brought before Commander Hastings on 1st Feb. he said the money was handed to him for safekeeping. All the same he was sentenced to four months' hard labour.

The other night Chief Detective Inspector Hanson visited 244, Hollywood Road, and arrested a number of men whom he found gambling there. One of the men attempted to escape by climbing down the water-spout, but he fell and injured himself so severely that he had to be taken to the hospital. The men were charged before Commander Hastings yesterday morning. Three of them were fined \$25 each, one was fined \$15, the man who was injured was discharged, and the rest were each fined \$2.

At the magistracy on Thursday an assistant in a shop at 47, Wellington Street was charged with cutting and wounding the cook at the same place. The prisoner said he was a Roman Catholic. Wednesday being a fast day he would not eat some meat which the cook purchased, and a quarrel ensued. The cook struck him with a piece of wood, and in self-defence he seized the chopper and inflicted the injuries upon complainant. Commander Hastings thought Christianity had not done the prisoner much good, and sentenced him to four months' imprisonment with hard labour.

The Chinese coolie who was removed to the Government Civil Hospital on Saturday night, suffering from a fractured skull, the result of a fall when endeavouring to escape from the Police who were executing a search warrant in a gambling establishment on the first floor of No. 244, Hollywood Road, died from the effects of his injuries on Tuesday night. At the Magistracy on Thursday, Commander Hastings held an inquiry into the cause of death. Dr. Bell gave evidence that deceased was admitted to the hospital suffering from fracture of the base of the skull. He never regained consciousness, and died on Tuesday. Commander Hastings returned a verdict of accidental death, the result of a fall, whilst escaping from the Police, who were executing a gambling warrant.

At the meeting of the Victoria Preceptory held on 26th January Sir Knight F. D. Goddard was installed as Eminent Preceptor for the ensuing year, Past Eminent Preceptor Cooke acting as Installing Officer. Sir Knight F. D. Goddard afterwards appointed his officers as follows and invested those who were present:—Past E. Preceptor, Sir Knight D. MacDonald; 1st Constable, Sir Knight Geo. J. B. Sayer; 2nd Constable, Sir Knight G. A. Watkins; Chaplain, Sir Knight J. Dyer Ball; Treasurer, Sir Knight J. J. Bryan; Registrar, Sir Knight Jas. Lochead; Marshal, Sir Knight W. Farmer; Capt. of the Guard, Sir Knight U. Nervegna; Almoner, Sir Knight W. Baker; Herald, Sir Knight W. M. S. Beede; Standard Bearer, Sir Knight A. G. Aitken; Organist, Sir Knight F. W. Hall; Guard, Sir Knight F. Maxwell. After the conclusion of the ceremony the Knights dined together, when the usual Loyal and masonic toasts were duly honoured.

At the regular meeting of Eothen Mark Lodge, No. 264, E.C., held on Monday evening, Bro. D. Macdonald was installed as Worshipful Master for the ensuing year by Wor. Bro. A. O'D. Gourdin and a board of Installed Masters, and appointed and invested the following officers:—S.W., Bro. J. Lochead; J.W., Bro. G. P. Lammert; M.O., Bro. F. D. Goddard; S.O., Bro. G. J. B. Sayer; J.O., Bro. J. D. Ball; Treasurer, Wor. Bro. A. O'D. Gourdin; Sec., Bro. G. Piercy, Jr.; S.D., Bro. A. H. Bottenheim; I.G., Bro. J. J. Bryan; Tyler, Bro. J. R. Grimble.

On the 21st January the annual inspection of the Royal Engineers by the Officer in Command of the Troops took place on the Parade Ground in Queen's Road, the numbers on parade being 11 officers, including Col. Eledale, R.E., 1 warrant officer, 43 staff sergeants, and sergeants, 3 buglers, 25 corporals, 132 sappers Europeans, 4 havildars, 2 buglers, 7 natives, and 51 men (Chinese portion of the Hongkong Submarine Miners). The Submarine Miners here are divided into two distinct portions, viz., the European and Native. The Natives were detached from the main body yesterday morning, and the 25th Company and Britishers of the Hongkong Company were put through their battalion drill by the junior officers, after which they were formed up and highly complimented both for their smartness in appearance and their drill. Major-General Gascoigne expressing surprise considering that they were principally employed at work and not on drill. He also spoke highly of their moral and physical records. The native portion were then put through the manual exercises by Lieut. Bagnal Wilde, R.E., and the sword bayonet exercise by Lieut. Randall, R.E. The latter officer afterwards put them through a few simple company movements. On being formed up, the General had Havildar-Major Ching Fat up, and on being assured that he understood English, told the havildar to tell the others how surprised and pleased he was to see the way in which the natives had drilled; he also gave great praise to the British non-commissioned officers for the way in which they had instructed the natives.

The thirty-seventh publication of the "Chronicle and Directory for China, Japan" &c., &c. is before the public. In spite of all possible condensation the work goes on increasing in bulk. Yearly it covers new ground, and *pari passu*, its pages grow in number. There are in the present issue several new features, additions, and alterations, all of which will be found useful and acceptable. In the Appendix, among other additions, are the Kowloon Extension Agreement, the Weihaiwei Convention, the Kiaochow Convention and the Railway and Mining Concession to Germany, the Port Arthur and Tientsin Agreement between Russia and China, the Treaty between Japan and Siam signed on the 25th February, 1898, and the Japanese Statutory Tariff sanctioned on the 24th September, 1898, all very interesting and important documents, most useful for reference. The various directories have been revised in the best possible manner and the descriptions and statistics brought up to date. A new map has been added showing the territory acquired under the Kowloon Extension Agreement of the 9th June, 1898, which gives an excellent idea of the extensive addition to the area of the colony. Under the head lines of Hongkong and all the various Colonies and Treaty Ports in China are given the Chinese names and characters for each, which is a new and convenient feature. Readers will find a great change in the Manila pages. Instead of the fourteen pages formerly devoted to the Government departments, the official section is this year confined to a single page, in which the officers forming the military administration are enumerated. The commercial part of the Manila directory has, on the other hand, increased in spite of the state of uncertainty existing as to the future of the islands. Advertisers are, we note, finding out the value of the "Chronicle and Directory" as an advertising medium, the number of advertisements being considerably greater than that of previous years. The book goes to every port and part of the Far East and is now finding its way into the hands of all the great manufacturers of England, France, Germany, and the United States, as well as into the mercantile offices of the great cities of those countries.



The return of cases of communicable disease reported as occurring in the colony last week shows that there was one case of scarlet fever on the *Powerful* and one case of smallpox on shore, outside the city of Victoria.

Messrs. Lutgens Einstmann & Co., General Agents of the Great Eastern and Caledonian Gold Mining Co., Limited, inform us that they have received the following telegram from the Manager at the mines:—"Stamps are running extremely well. There will be a clean up next week."

The opening of the season in connection with the Craigengower Cricket Club was celebrated on Saturday by the holding of an "At Home" at the south end of Happy Valley. A good many ladies and gentlemen responded to the invitations issued by the president (Mr. W. D. Braidwood), and a few hours were pleasantly spent. During the afternoon the prizes gained during the last cricket season were presented. J. H. Ruttonjee was awarded a fine bat for his batting performances, Mr. E. Asger getting \$10 (presented by Mr. Braidwood) for bowling. M. Bash and E. Asger were the recipients of extra prizes presented by H. Wood and E. P. Frost. Mrs. Braidwood kindly distributed the prizes. During the day a couple of cricket matches—one for the small boys and the other for the older ones—took place. The feature of the coming season will be the struggle for a challenge shield presented by Hon. E. R. Belilios for the highest batting average.

There was something of a fracas at the Hongkong Hotel on Monday afternoon. The outcome was that a Danish seaman named Resmos Madsen appeared before Commander Hastings on Tuesday morning to answer a charge of assault preferred against him by Harry Haynes, the manager. Complainant said that defendant was in the billiard room making a noise. He was swearing at the Chinese boys and calling them all sorts of names. Witness asked him to moderate his language a little, as he would be served just as quickly. He spoke quietly. Observing that defendant was too drunk to be served with liquor he told the boys not to serve him and went up to the dining room. He was called down in about ten minutes by the No. 1 boy. He went down and found defendant very noisy in the middle of the billiard room. He was banging a stick on the table. Witness told the watchman to put him out. He did not speak to defendant. The Indian was putting defendant out by force when the latter caught hold of his (complainant's) coat and tore it. He asked defendant to let go and defendant broke away from the watchman and hit him (complainant) over the head with a stick. He immediately gave defendant into custody.—The Indian watchman corroborated and evidence was also given by an Indian constable into whose custody defendant was given.—Defendant said: As far as I can remember I was in company with some gentlemen at the Hongkong Hotel. Some of them left but I remained. I can remember that I was turned out by the watchman. I was taken out by the north door. As I was going down the steps complainant came behind and gave me a blow on the back of the neck which made me fall down near the gutter. I got up and struck him with a stick on the head. He pushed me down again and I was arrested.—Defendant was fined \$25, or six weeks.

#### MISCELLANEOUS.

Shanghai is not better off than Hongkong in all respects. A case is reported in the local papers in which a well known ratepayer of the Model Settlement who has a large family, found that one of his Chinese servants was suffering from small-pox. Not liking to turn the sufferer into the street and as it appeared he had no friends to take him away, the employer made application at the various hospitals to get him admitted as a patient, but was met with a refusal. He then applied to the Sanitary Department of the Municipality, and in reply received the following letter:—

Shanghai, 23rd January, 1899.

Dear Mr. — There appears to be no provision made for native patients. Dr. Stanley says you had better let him remain where he is, and have some one to attend to him who has already had small-pox. Your family should be vaccin-

ated, if they have not already been done.—Yours faithfully,

JOHN M. MACDONALD.

In the Supreme Court at Shanghai on the 30th January Richard Tournay, late second engineer of the steamer *Feiching*, was indicted for having on Christmas night, on board the ship named, shot, with intent to murder, Augustus Barrier, second officer of that vessel. Arthur Eveleigh, third engineer, and L. Fonseca, purser of the opium hulk *Wellington*, with intent to murder. There were also separate counts of shooting with general intent to murder, and of shooting with intent to do grievous bodily harm. Mr. Ellis, the prisoner's counsel, submitted that prisoner was labouring under mental distress and intoxication on the night of the shooting and suffered strong provocation from Eveleigh, but he had no felonious intention to inflict any injury upon Fonseca and Barrier. Mr. Ellis asked the jury to acquit the prisoner of any intent to murder or inflict grievous bodily harm and to find him guilty of the lesser offence of unlawful wounding. The jury returned a verdict of "guilty of shooting with intent to do grievous bodily harm." The prisoner was sentenced to one year's hard labour.

In the Supreme Court at Singapore judgment has been given by the Chief Justice in a case in which Mr. James Aitken sued as the administrator of William Anderson, deceased, and for the benefit of the latter's two children, who, it was averred, had suffered damages from the defendant's negligence whilst conveying Mr. and Mrs. Anderson by the defendant's steamship *Sri Hong Ann*, whereby they were drowned on the 18th June, 1897. The amount claimed was \$20,000, and judgment was given for \$15,000 with costs. The Chief Justice in the course of his judgment said:—It was also argued that the defendant was not liable because the direct cause of the disaster, the *proxima causa*, was the storm. The defendant would not be liable if it was clear that the loss of the ship was not due to negligence, and was caused solely and exclusively by the storm. But he could not take that view of the facts. He was satisfied that the *Sri Hong Ann* was unable to weather the storm, and was lost, because there had been negligence on the part of the defendant and his servants. The cases quoted by Mr. Nanson on this point were not applicable to this case, which had some analogy to *Barliff of Romney v. Trinity House* (L. R., 5 Exchequer, 205). There, the defendant's ship owing to the negligence of their servants struck on a sand-bank, and, becoming from that cause unmanageable, was driven by the wind and tide upon the plaintiff's sea-wall and damaged it. It was held the defendants were liable for the damage so caused. He must therefore hold that the defendant was liable in this action.

#### COMMERCIAL.

##### TEA

##### EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO UNITED KINGDOM AND CONTINENT.

	1898-99	1897-98
	lbs.	lbs.
Hankow and Shanghai...	13,478,766	13,868,361
Foochow .....	13,200,549	12,622,570
Amoy .....	688,318	685,651
Canton .....	4,143,760	5,455,162
	31,811,393	32,631,744

##### EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1898-99	1897-98
	lbs.	lbs.
Shanghai .....	15,661,674	20,228,971
Amoy .....	12,034,647	14,522,772
Foochow .....	7,297,412	7,126,264
	34,990,733	41,878,007

##### EXPORT OF TEA FROM JAPAN TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1898-99	1897-98
	lbs.	lbs.
Yokohama .....	24,964,397	25,670,893
Kobe .....	12,156,816	24,475,448
	37,121,213	50,146,341

##### EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO ODESSA

	1898-99	1897-98
	lbs.	lbs.
Shanghai and Hankow...	22,691,075	19,462,293

##### SILK.

CANTON, 21st Jan.—Silk.—Tsatlers and Re-reels.—We have no business to report in these classes. Filatures have been in good demand at hardening prices, but owing to the approach of the Native New Year holidays dealers are unwilling to sell for forward delivery and relatively little has been done. From prices paid we quote: \$815 for Min King Lun 11/13, \$805 for Kwong Sun Hang 11/13, \$790/785 for King Wo 11/13, Wing Hing Lun and Kong Lun Fung 11/13, \$780/775 for Kum Lun Tai and Kum Lun Hing 10/12, Kum King Cheong and Lee King Lun 11/13, \$745 for Kwong Wa Lun 11/13, \$700/760 for Yee Wo Lun and Hing Lun 11/13 and 13/15, \$665 for Wai King Wo and Yee Wo Chong 18/22. Short-reels. Prices advanced \$10-20 per picul. From prices paid we quote: \$750 for Yu King 14/16, \$740/735 for Kwong Lun On 14/16, \$740/735 for Min Tai Cheong and Min Wo Cheong 14/16. Waste.—Quiet, prices steady.

SHANGHAI, 28th January.—(From Messrs. A. B. Burkill & Sons' Circular).—The Home markets are strong, and Gold Killings are quoted at 10/9 in London and at Fes. 30 25 in Lyons. Raw Silk.—A good business has taken place during the week, and the market closes very strong. Tls. 500 is said to have been refused for Gold Killings; settlements of Tsatlers are fully 600 bales. There has also been a good demand for coarse qualities, and about 250 bales of Taysams have been settled. Yellow Silk.—Market strong; all good qualities coming forward are eagerly competed for, there is still a good demand for Mienchew. We estimate settlements this week at 150 bales. Arrivals, as per Customs Returns, January 21st to 27th, are: 902 bales White, 204 bales Yellow, and 136 bales Wild Silks. Re-Bales and Filatures.—There has been a large business done in Hand Filatures both for America and Lyons, and prices have advanced considerably; the amount settled is fully 750 bales for the two markets, the majority of which is for forward delivery. Steam Filatures are quieter again; shipments last week were over 700 bales, and stocks are much reduced now. The Export of Steam Filatures to date is: 2,431 bales to France, 1,900 bales to America and 78 bales to London. Wild Silk.—Some 200/300 bales of Filatures have been settled this week. Waste Silk.—Market quiet, 50 piculs White Coarse Gum, 70 per cent. No. 1, 30 per cent. No. 2 at Tls. 60 have been settled.

Prices calculated by Maerten's Tables at 11 per cent. Exchange 2/94 and Fes. 3.494. Freight Tls. 7.80 per bale.

	Tls.	Stlg.
	per pol.	per lb.
Tsatlers.—Mountain 4 .....	520	12/4
" " 5 .....	507	12/1
" " Kin Kee Kinling .....	511	12/1
" " Gold Killing .....	497	11/10
" " Ohay Killing .....	477	11/4
Hanchow Tsatlers.—Pagoda Tinghow .....	462	11/0
" " Lanhook .....	462	11/0
Taysam.—Wh. Kahing Gold Lily Flower 2 .....	470	11/2
" " " " 3 .....	450	10/9
" " " " 4 .....	415	9/11
" " Gr. Kahing Gold Goose 2 .....	465	11/1
" " Gr. Almand Flower 1 .....	435	10/5
Yellow Silk.—Mienchew .....	365	8/9
" " Meeyang .....	310 a 315	7/6 a 7/7
" " Fooyung, MMM .....	365	8/8
Yellow Silk.—Fooyung, Market 1 .....	335	8/1
" " Common .....	250	6/1
" " Szechong, Market 1 .....	232	5/8
Hand Filature.—		
Hayhenyu Broisee Ex., Nos. 1 & 2 .....	avg. 660	15/6
Flying Horse Croisee Ex., and No. 1 .....	635	15/0
Pegasus (not Croisee) 1, 2 & 3 .....	590	13/11
Buffalo .....	590	13/11
Fan Chop .....	585	13/10
Mars Chop .....	560	13/8
Wild Silk.—		
Tussah Filature Three Joss Chop, 8 cocoons .....	5/9 a 5/10	
" " Market Chop, 8 cocoons .....	4/9 a 5/2	

##### EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO EUROPE.

	1898-99	1897-98
	bales.	bales.
Shanghai .....	49,558	43,707
Canton .....	24,138	18,611
Yokohama .....	16,263	14,596
	79,959	76,914

##### EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO AMERICA.

	1898-99	1897-98
	bales.	bales.
Shanghai .....	6,489	9,169
Canton .....	7,911	9,471
Yokohama .....	19,214	23,006
	33,614	41,646



## CAMPHOR.

HONGKONG, 3rd February.—The market has slightly recovered during the past week. Quotations for Formosa are \$52.00 to \$52.50. Sales, 180 piculs.

## SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 3rd Feb.—The upward tendency continues and the market is brisk. Quotations are:—

Shekloong, No. 1, White...	\$7.75 to \$7.80	pcd.
do. " 2, White...	7.20 to 7.25	"
Shekloong, No. 1, Brown...	5.00 to 5.05	"
do. " 2, Brown...	4.85 to 4.90	"
Swatow, No. 1, White...	7.65 to 7.70	"
do. " 2, White...	7.05 to 7.10	"
Swatow, No. 1, Brown...	4.80 to 4.85	"
do. " 2, Brown...	4.65 to 4.70	"
Essex Sugar Cane...	11.05 to 11.10	"
Swatow...	10.60 to 10.08	"

## MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Per steamer *Magul*, sailed on the 17th January. For New York:—2,438 rolls matting, 161 cases Chinaware, 6 cases staraniseed, 54 cases ginger, 25 cases bristles, 27 cases blackwoodware, 100 bags rice, and 1,975 packages merchandise.

Per steamer *Astoria*, sailed on the 17th Jan. For Constantinople:—5 boxes essential oil. For Smyrna:—20 boxes essential oil and 20 boxes cassia buds. For Odessa:—150 boxes staraniseed. For Havre:—5 boxes essential oil, 6 cases woodware, 7 cases China ink, 25 cases staraniseed, 32 bales hides, 36 cases blackwoodware, 38 bales hemp, 38 bales human hair, 119 cases Chinaware, 426 packages canes, 586 cases bambooware, 714 packages tea, and 1,622 rolls matting. For Havre and/or Hamburg:—1 case feathers, 9 cases human hair, 12 cases rice paper, 150 packages canes, and 480 rolls matting. For Havre and/or Hamburg and/or London:—15 cases bristles, 20 boxes essential oil, and 50 cases staraniseed. For Hamburg:—3 cases China ink, 3 cases gongs, 4 cases silks, 4 cases cigars, 6 cases cotton, 7 bags shell, 9 cases curios, 9 cases sundries, 10 cases human hair, 15 cases private effects, 28 cases blackwoodware, 30 cases essential oil, 34 bales galangal, 40 cases Chinaware, 43 cases tea, 49 cases palm leaf fans, 100 cases gallnuts, 100 cases Formosa camphor, 100 bales broken cassia, 114 cases preserves, 225 cases staraniseed, 250 cases crackers, 309 rolls matting, 400 cases cassia buds, 401 packages canes, and 522 bales feathers. For Hamburg and/or London:—100 cases cassia buds, 130 cases gallnuts, and 500 bales cassia lignea. For Rotterdam:—1 case Chinaware and 11 cases cigars. For London:—200 bales matting. For Bremen:—56 bales cotton. For Lisbon:—6 cases Chinaware. For Buenos Ayres:—150 packages tea.

Per steamer *Vindobona*, sailed on the 24th Jan. For Trieste:—3,950 cases cassia lignea, 325 cases cassia buds, 550 bales cassia broken, 4 cases Chinaware, 15 cases essential oil, 3 cases curios, 10 boxes fans, 5 cases hair, 14 bales hides, 25 cases paper, 204 packages rattans, 75 cases staraniseed, 6 bales tobacco, 120 boxes tea, 50 bales waste silk, 69 bags shells, and 1 box feathers. For Fiume:—700 cases cassia lignea, 100 cases cassia buds, 150 bales cassia broken, 1 case curios, and 1,875 bales tobacco. For Venice:—100 cases cassia lignea, and 10 cases essential oil. For Piræus:—50 cases staraniseed. For Smyrna:—250 cases cassia lignea. For Beyruth:—59 cases cassia lignea.

Per steamer *Indus*, sailed on the 28th January. For France:—469 bales raw silk, 4 cases silks, 5 cases Manila hats, 3 cases Chinaware, 25 cases staraniseed, 200 chests tea, 85 rolls matting, and 200 bundles bamboo.

## OPIUM.

HONGKONG, 3rd February.—Bengal.—There has been a fair amount of business during the past week, and rates have advanced, the market closing firm at the following figures:—New Patna \$812½ and New Benares \$820.

Malwa.—The market for this drug has been rather dull, and rates have declined, closing quotations being as follows:—

New	.....	\$700 with no allowance
Old (2 yrs.)	.....	\$730 with all'nce of 0 to 2 catty.
" (3/4 " )	.....	\$740 " " 0 to 1 "
" (5/6 " )	.....	\$760 " " 0 to 2 "

Persian.—Business has been rather slack in this drug. The rate for Paper-wrapped Opium of good quality has improved considerably and there is a good demand for this description at the close, the best quotations being for Oily \$550 to \$600 and Paper-wrapped at \$650 to \$740.

To-day's stocks are estimated as under:—

New Patna	.....	1,970 chests
New Benares	.....	169 "
Malwa	.....	454 "
Persian	.....	820 "

## COURSE OF THE HONGKONG OPIUM MARKET.

DATE.	PATNA.		BENARES.		MALWA.	
	New.	Old.	New.	Old.	New.	Old.
1899	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Jan. 28	810	—	815	—	700	—
Jan. 29	810	—	815	—	700	—
Jan. 30	810	—	815	—	700	—
Jan. 31	810	—	815	—	700	—
Feb. 1	810	—	815	—	700	—
Feb. 2	810	—	820	—	700	—
Feb. 3	812½	—	820	—	700	—

## COTTON.

HONGKONG, 3rd February.—At current rates a fair amount of business has been put through. Stocks, about 3,000 bales.

Bombay	.....	14.20 to 16.00 picul.
Karnachee	.....	to " "
Bengal (New), Rangoon, and Dacca	.....	15.50 to 16.75 picul.
Shanghai and Japanese	.....	20.00 to 21.00 "
Tungchow and Ningpo	.....	20.00 to 21.00 "
Malwa (Best)	.....	to " "
Sales: 2,300 bales Bengal (New), Rangoon, and Dacca.		

## RICE.

HONGKONG, 3rd February.—Stocks are being laid in for the China New Year and prices show a marked advance. Quotations are:—

Sigon Ordinary	.....	\$2.75 to \$2.80
Round, good quality	.....	2.85 to 2.90
Long	.....	3.05 to 3.10
Siam, Field, mill cleaned, No. 1	.....	3.05 to 3.10
Garden, " No. 1	.....	3.15 to 3.20
White	.....	3.80 to 3.85
Fine Cargo	.....	4.05 to 4.10

HONGKONG, 3rd February.—Market very quiet; only retail business doing. Quotations are:—  
Cashiff ..... \$19.00 to 20.00 ex ship, nominal  
Australian ..... 10.00 to 10.50 ex ship, "  
Midi Lamp ..... 9.00 to 10.25 nominal  
and Small .....  
Hoi Lump ..... 7.50 to 9.00 ex ship, nominal  
Hongay double ..... 12.00 ex Godown  
screened .....  
Hongay Lump ..... 8.00 to 8.50 ex ship  
Hongay Dust ..... 5.50 to —  
Briquettes ..... 10.00 to —

## MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 3rd February.—Among the sales reported during the week are the following:—

YARN AND PIECE GOODS:—*Bombay Yarn*.—1,000 bales No. 10 at \$64 to \$86, 800 bales No. 12 at \$74.50 to \$81, 250 bales No. 16 at \$80 to \$83, 1,100 bales No. 20 at \$81 to \$91. *Japanese Yarn*.—60 bales No. 16 at \$86. *Grey Shirtings*.—600 pieces 8½ lbs. 3 Dogs at \$3, 500 pieces 10 lbs. Blue 6 Men at \$3.87½, 300 pieces 8½ lbs. Red 7 Boys at \$2.87½, 300 pieces 8½ lbs. 3 Dogs at \$3, 600 pieces 8½ lbs. Red Cock at \$2.57½, 500 pieces 10 lbs. Blue 7 Boys at \$3.37½. *White Shirtings*.—250 pieces 8 Q at \$4.45, 500 pieces Gold Goose at \$4.37½, 500 pieces Tree and Elephant at \$5.35, 500 pieces 300 at \$3.65, 500 pieces D 70 at \$3.72½, 500 pieces Gold Elephant at \$3.92½, 500 pieces S Q at \$4.45, 500 pieces 1 Chop at \$3.27½, 500 pieces 8 Chop at \$3.57½, 800 pieces E K at \$5.90, 800 pieces D K at \$1.90, 800 pieces C K at \$4.70, 500 pieces Gold Elephant at \$3.92½, 600 pieces Blue Lion at \$5.92½, 250 pieces X 6 at \$3.87½, 250 pieces X 7 at \$4.01. *T-Cloths*.—600 pieces 8 lbs. Mex. V V at \$3.60, pieces 8 lbs. X X at \$3.05, 750 pieces 7 lbs. Mex. Dragon at \$2.37½, 600 pieces 8 lbs. Mex. G Dragon at \$2.37½, 750 pieces 7 lbs. Mex. G Dragon at \$2.31, 600 pieces 8 lbs. Mex. G Dragon at \$2.72½. *Drills*.—150 pieces 16 lbs. Large Eagle at \$5.37½. *White Irishes*.—500 pieces Gold Horse at \$4.55. *Long Ells*.—300 pieces 8 lbs. Scarlet 4 Chickens at \$6.65. *Bengal Cotton*.—40 bales at \$16.50, 80 bales at \$16.50, 50 bales at \$16.50, 100 bales at \$16.50.

SHANGHAI, 28th January.—(From Messrs. Nosl, Murray & Co.'s Piece Goods Trade Report).—There is very little of interest to report; the

market although decidedly strong is much quieter, which can be attributed more to the firmness of holders than to anything else. The dealers have undoubtedly got a much better interest than they have had for years past, and at the moment everything looks favorable and promising for them. Recently they have been clearing considerable quantities of their purchases, against which they had guaranteed the Exchange, and storing them in the steamer godowns for shipment to the North at the opening of the season, but goods bought on a tael basis are allowed to run on. Business in Manchester makes shows a falling off this week, but a few respectable lines of American have been placed both in Drills and Sheetings, either from stock or for early arrival at firmer prices. For immediate consumption there is little or no demand, the markets at the Outports being practically closed now. The public sales, with extended clearance, show a slight recovery from the decline of last week, but not so much as might have been expected, there being a better demand for Indian Spinnings at a slight advance. Local Yarns in are request but Spinnings are firm, the business this week being limited in consequence. Clearances of former purchases are very good.

METALS, 30th January.—(From Messrs. Alex. Belfield & Co.'s Report).—There are but few transactions to report for the week under review, money naturally becoming tighter as the China New Year approaches nearer. Home Prices appear to be firm but the natives are doing no business. We give below the business transacted which will, of course, improve at the commencement of the Chinese New Year, which this year falls on February 10th.—50 tons of Round Iron at 10s/6 c.i.f.c., 100 boxes Galvanised Corrugated Iron 2½/26 G. at £13.9.0, c.i.f.c.

## JOINT STOCK SHARES.

HONGKONG, 3rd February.—The market has ruled rather quieter during the week under review and without any special feature to report except a boom in Raubs.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai with a continued small cash demand have further improved to 285 per cent. prem. after small sales at 282, 283, and 284. On time shares have been placed for March at from 287 per cent. prem. to 290 per cent. prem. and for April at equivalent rates. Nationals have ruled steady with small sales at \$20½ and \$21, closing at latter rate.

MARINE INSURANCES.—China Traders, Unions, and Cantons have changed hands in small lots at quotations, whilst Straits and the Northern Insurances remain unchanged and without any local business.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkong Fires have been dealt in at \$317½ and close with further small sellers at that rate. China Fires are quoted at \$90 without business.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao have been negotiated in small lots at \$26.75, but close with sellers at \$26.50 ex div. Indo-Chinas have advanced to \$65 after sales at \$62½, \$63, \$63½, and \$64 for cash and at \$64, \$65, and \$66 for March and at \$66 and \$67 for April. China Manilas are enquired for at \$95, but remain without business. Douglasses have ruled steady at \$58 with small sales. China Mutuals continue in demand but without business.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars after a long period of inaction have been in demand and sales have been effected at \$163, \$169, \$170, \$172, and \$173 for cash and at equivalent rates forward. Lazons remain quiet with small sales at \$52.

MINING.—Panjoms ruling rather quieter have changed hands at \$6.25. Charbonnages continue on offer at \$115. Queen Mines have been further dealt in to some extent at from 95 cents to \$1.25, closing easier at \$1. Jelebus have further improved to \$6 with sales. Olivers B. have found small buyers at \$5 and close in demand at that rate, whilst A's remain on offer at \$7. Great Eastern have been dealt in to some considerable extent at from \$8.35 to \$9.25, closing steady. Raubs, with a good intermediate clean up, have been in good demand and the rate has advanced to \$60 after small sales at \$50, \$52, \$53, \$55, \$56, and \$58. Business, however, has not been very general as holders still refuse to part with any large number of shares.

DOCKS, WHARVES, AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have been steady



With small sales at 305 and 306 per cent. prem. for cash and at 310 and 312 for March delivery. Kowloon Wharves have changed hands at \$84, \$85, and \$86 cash, whilst a few lots are available at \$89 for March. Wanchais unchanged and without business.

**LANDS, HOTELS, AND BUILDINGS.**—Hongkong Lands continue steady with small sales at \$78; an unsatisfied demand at about equivalent rates for May and June exists at time of closing. Hotels have found buyers at \$74. West Point at \$18, and Humphreys Estates at \$94.

**COTTON MILLS.**—With the exception of small sales of Hongkongs at \$83, there is nothing to report.

**MISCELLANEOUS.**—Green Islands (New) have been negotiated at \$264, Watsons at \$134, Electrics at \$11 and \$114, Fenwicks at \$31, and Tramways at \$130. China Providents continue quiet and on offer at \$9 75 without sales, and an offer of \$94 would most likely lead to business.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATION.
Banks—		
Hongkong & Shanghai...	\$125	285 % buyer.
China & Japan, prf.	\$5	nominal
Do. ordinary...	\$4	\$1, sales
Do. deferred...	\$1	\$5.5s.
Natl. Bank of China		
B. Shares	\$8	\$21
Founders Shares...	\$3	\$21
Bell's Asbestos E. A. ...	\$1	nominal
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$1, sales
China Prov. L. & M. ...	\$10	\$9.50, sellers
China Sugar	\$100	\$173, buyers
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo...	Tls. 100	Tls. 70
International	Tls. 100	Tls. 80
Loan Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 8
Soych...	Tls. 600	Tls. 400
Yahloong	Tls. 100	Tls. 55
Hongkong	\$70	\$84
Dairy Farm Co. ...	\$4	\$5
Fenwick & Co., Geo. ...	\$25	\$31, sales & buyers
Green Island Cement...	\$10	\$27
Do. New Issue	\$1	\$24, sellers
H. & China Bakery	\$50	\$33
Hongkong & C. Gas	\$10	\$126
Hongkong Electric	\$10	\$11 buyers
H. H. L. Tramways	\$100	\$130, sal. & buyers
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$74, sellers
Hongkong Ice	\$25	\$120, sales & sellers
H. & K. Wharf & G. ...	\$50	\$36, buyers
Hongkong Rope	\$50	\$172
H. & W. Dock	\$125	306 p. ct. prem. =
Insurances—		
Canton	\$50	\$150, sales
China Fire	\$20	\$90, sales
China Traders'	\$25	\$65
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$317, sellers
North-China	\$25	Tls. 180, buyers
Straits	\$20	\$7
Union	\$50	\$230, sales
Yangtze	\$60	\$125, sellers
Land and Building—		
H. Land Investment.	\$50	\$78, sellers
Humphreys Estate...	\$10	\$94, sales & sellers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$174, ex div.
West Point Building	\$40	\$18, sales
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$54, buyers
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 250	\$115, sellers
Great E. & C'donian	\$5	\$9.25, sellers
Jelebu	\$5	\$6, buyers
Queens Mines Ltd.	25c.	1, buyers
Oliver's Mines, A. ...	\$5	\$7, sellers
Do. B. ...	\$24	\$3, sellers
Punjom	\$5	\$6.25, sales
Do. Preference...	\$1	\$1.40
Raubs	14s. 10d.	\$60, buyers
New Amoy Dock	\$64	\$154
Steamship Coy.—		
China and Manila...	\$50	\$95, sales & buyers
China Mutual Ord.	\$10	\$9.10s, buyers
Do. Preference	\$10	\$5 10s, buyers
Do. No.	\$5	\$3, buyers
Douglas S. S. Co.	\$50	\$58 sellers
H. Canton and M. ...	\$15	\$26.75, ex div. sel.
Indo-China S. N. ...	\$10	\$5
Star Ferry	\$74	\$12.25
Tebrau Planting Co. ...	\$5	\$5, sellers
Do.	\$2	\$3, sellers
United Asbestos	\$2	\$1.50, buyers
Do.	\$10	\$10, nominal
Wanchai Warehouse Co.	\$374	\$394
Watson & Co., A. S. ...	\$10	\$34, buyers

J. Y. V. VERNON, broker,

SHANGHAI, 30th January. — From Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Report. — The business of the week has not been large, and there was but little change in prices. Banks. — Hongkong

and Shanghai Banking Corporation. — Business was done early in the week at 275 per cent. premium, but the market afterwards declined to 27 per cent., which is the closing cash rate. Shares were placed to Hongkong at 278 with exchange 174. The Bank has made a loan on the Northern Railway from which it is expected to make a profit of from £80,000 to £80,000. Shares are therefore in demand at 275 per cent. premium, at the close. National Bank of China shares were placed to Hongkong at \$194, with exchange 714, and are wanted. Marine Insurance. — North China Insurance shares were sold at Tls. 140. Yangtze Insurance shares were parted with at \$120. Fire Insurance. — Hongkongs were purchased from Hongkong at \$319. Chinas were placed at \$89 locally, and are wanted. Shipping. — Indo-China S. N. shares were placed at Tls. 45 locally and are wanted. Sugars. — Sugar shares have been neglected. There are sellers of China Sugar Refining shares in Hongkong at \$168. Mining. — No business reported. Docks, Wharves & Godowns. — Shares in S. C. Furnham & Co. changed hands at Tls. 166, and are off ring. Shanghai Engineering shares were sold, Ordinary at Tls. 98 and Preference at Tls. 100. Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf shares have been in demand and business was done at Tls. 1324/135 cash, and Tls. 140 for March. March shares are offering. Land. — Shanghai Land Investment shares have weakened to Tls. 86. Industrial. — Shares in Major Brothers changed hands at Tls. 374. Loon-Kung-Mow Cotton Spinning and Weaving Co. Ltd. Shanghai Ice shares were sold at Tls. 26, and are wanted. Shanghai Rice Mill shares changed hands at Tls. 27. China Flour Mill shares were done at Tls. 40, and American Cigarette shares at Tls. 64. Tugs & Cargo Boats. — Business was done in Co-operative Cargo Boat shares at Tls. 140. Miscellaneous. — Shanghai-Sumatra Tobacco shares were placed at Tls. 65, and in Hall & Holtz shares at \$314. Shanghai-Langkai Tobacco shares are neglected. Loans. — Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf 6 per cent. Debentures were placed at Tls. 1004, and P. Rak Sugar Cultivation 7 per cent. Debentures at Tls. 100.

#### EXCHANGE.

FRIDAY, 3rd February.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	1/11 1/2
Bank Bills, on demand	1/11 1/2
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/11 1/2
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	1/11 1/2
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/11 1/2
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	2/00
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	2.47
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2.51
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	2.00 1/2
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	47 1/2
Credits, 60 days' sight	48 1/2
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	145 1/2
Bank, on demand	146
ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	145 1/2
Bank, on demand	146
ON SHANGHAI.—	
Bank, at sight	71 1/2
Private, 30 days' sight	72 1/2
ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand	5 % pm.
ON MANILA.—	
On demand	14 % pm.
ON SINGAPORE.—	
On demand	1 % pm.
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Ruying Rate	10.07
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tola	53.25

#### TONNAGE.

HONGKONG, 3rd February. — During the past fortnight the demand has been almost entirely from Saigon to Hongkong, the rates closing firm at 14 1/2 cents for immediate loading and 15 cents per picul for loading in a fortnight. To Java there is only a slight demand at 26 cents per picul.

From Bangkok there is no enquiry, the berth rates of regular liners being 12 cents outside and 17 cents per picul inside the bar.

From the Philippines there is an enquiry for a small carrier to load at Iloilo to Hongkong, option Yokohama, at 20 cents and 35 cents per picul for Saigon.

Japan coal freights have advanced to \$2.10 to Hongkong, and \$3.25 per ton to Singapore.

Sailing tonnage. — The American ship *Abner Coburn*, 1,878 tons, proceeds to Manila to load hemp for

New York, and the American ship *Saint Mark*, 1,731 tons to Newcastle, N.S.W., to load for Manila, both under orders from owners.

There is one vessel disengaged in port registering 1,084 tons

The following are the settlements:—

*Abner Coburn*—American ship, 1,878 tons, proceeds to Manila to load for New York.

*Saint Mark*—American ship, proceeds to Newcastle, N.S.W., for Manila.

*Stanfield*—British bark, 560 tons, monthly, 6/6 months (timber), \$2,250 per month.

*Independent*—German steamer, 1,040 tons, Moji to Singapore, \$3.10 per ton.

*Pakistan*—British steamer, 1,235 tons, Moji to Singapore, \$1.5 per ton.

*Wingsang*—British steamer, 1,517 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$1 9, to Canton, \$2 20.

*Dagmar*—Norwegian steamer, 921 tons, Iloilo to Hongkong, 2 cents per picul.

*Nanchang*—British steamer, 1,062 tons, Saigon to one port north coast Java, 24 cents per picul.

*Hupei*—British steamer, 1,846 tons, Saigon to one port north coast Java, 25 cents per picul.

*Shantung*—British steamer, 1,835 tons, Saigon to one port Java, 23,000 piculs, 23 cents per picul.

*Kioto Maru*—Japanese steamer, 1,638 tons, four trips, Saigon to Hongkong, 16 cents per picul.

*Tordenskjold*—Norwegian steamer, 904 tons, Saigon to Singapore, 16 cents per picul.

*Germania*—German steamer, 1,775 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 13 cents per picul.

*Deuteros*—German steamer, 1,251 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 13 cents per picul.

*Tedatos*—German steamer, 1,812 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 14 cents per picul.

*Doyo Maru*—Japanese steamer, 1,244 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 14 cents per picul.

*Propontis*—British steamer, 1,390 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 13 cents per picul.

*Chunwang*—British steamer, 1,418 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 14 cents per picul.

*Yedo Maru*—Japanese steamer, 1,064 tons, four trips, Saigon to Hongkong, 16 cents per picul (re-charter).

*Nanyaseo*—Japanese steamer, 922 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 14 cents per picul (re-charter).

*Bygdo*—Norwegian steamer, 771 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 13 cents per picul.

*Chittagong*—British steamer, 1,241 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 14 cents per picul.

*Marie Jebsen*—German steamer, 1,771 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 14 cents per picul.

*Hermes*—Norwegian steamer, 549 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 14 cents per picul.

*Else*—German steamer, 890 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, re-charter.

*Kongbeng*—British steamer, 862 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 14 cents per picul (re-charter).

*Triton*—German steamer, 1,333 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 14 cents per picul (re-charter).

*Tuisang*—British steamer, 1,505 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 14 1/2 cents per picul.

*Taifu*—German steamer, 1,065 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 15 cents per picul.

*Amigo*—German steamer, 822 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 15 cents per picul.

*Petrarch*—German steamer, 1,251 tons, three ports Java to Hongkong, 35 cents per picul.

*Fausang*—British steamer, 1,410 tons, hence to Portland O. and back, 9s. per gross register.

*Loyal*—German steamer, 1,237 tons, monthly, 1/1 month, \$6,000 per month.

*Progress*—German steamer, 798 tons, monthly, 12 months, \$4,500 per month.

#### VESSELS ON THE BERTH

For LONDON.—*Tantalus* (str.), *Bengal* (str.), *Tosa Maru* (str.), *Malacca* (str.).

For BREMEN.—*Sachsen* (str.).

For MARSEILLE.—*Tosa Maru* (str.), *Laos* (str.).

For HAVRE AND HAMBURG.—*Sarnia* (str.),

*Dorothea Rickmers* (str.), *Suevia* (str.), *Wittenberg* (str.), *Silesta* (str.).

For SAN FRANCISCO.—*Doric* (str.), *China* (str.),

*Hongkong Maru* (str.), *Queen Margaret*.

For VANCOUVER.—*Empress of India* (str.).

For VICTORIA, B.C. AND PACIFIC.—*Victoria* (str.)

For PORTLAND, O.—*Monmouthshire* (str.).

For SAN DIEGO.—*Curmarnthshire* (str.).

For NEW YORK.—*Pathan* (str.), *Kenmore* (str.),

*Indrani* (str.).

For AUSTRALIA.—*Guthrie* (str.).

For THURSDAY ISLAND.—*Kasuga Maru* (str.).

For SINGAPORE, COLOMBO, AND BOMBAY.—*Kagoshima Maru* (str.).



## SHIPPING.

## ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

## HONGKONG.

## January—

## ARRIVALS.

- 27, Taisang, British str., from Saigon.  
 27, Chihli, British str., from Wuhu.  
 28, Tetartos, German str., from Saigon.  
 28, Fushun, Chinese str., from Shanghai.  
 28, Hongkong, French str., from Haiphong.  
 28, Kong Beng, British str., from Saigon.  
 28, Pechili, British str., from Chefoo.  
 28, Wongkoi, British str., from Bangkok.  
 29, Chwushan, British str., from Singapore.  
 29, Glenesk, British str., from London.  
 29, Glenfalloch, British str., from Singapore.  
 29, Haitan, British str., from Coast Ports.  
 30, Dardanus, British str., from Liverpool.  
 30, Sydney, French str., from Marseilles.  
 30, Loyal, German str., from Saigon.  
 30, Hohenzollern, Ger. str., from Yokohama.  
 30, Rattler, British gunboat, from Manila.  
 30, Else, German str., from Manila.  
 30, Hoihao, French str., from Pakhoi.  
 30, Ingraban, German str., from Saigon.  
 30, Tallio Maru, Japanese str., from Moji.  
 30, Taifu, German str., from Saigon.  
 30, Cheang H. Kian, British str., from S'pore.  
 30, Chittagong, British str., from Krovovan.  
 30, Preussen, German str., from Shanghai.  
 31, Prosper, Norw. str., from Saigon.  
 31, Clara, German str., from Haiphong.  
 31, Tritos, German str., from Saigon.  
 31, Loongmoon, German str., from Canton.  
 31, Formosa, British str., from Tamsui.  
 31, D. Rickmers, Ger. str., from Nagasaki.  
 31, Yedo Maru, Japanese str., from Saigon.  
 31, Algerine, British sloop, from Foochow.  
 31, Fushun, Chinese str., from Canton.  
 31, Kamakura Maru, Jap. str., from Japan.

## February—

- 1, Rosetta, British str., from Yokohama.  
 1, Jacob Diederichsen, Ger. str., from Moji.  
 1, Phra Nang, British str., from Bangkok.  
 1, H.M.S. Undaunted, from Weihaiwei.  
 2, Oslo, Norwegian str., from Saigon.  
 2, Chihli, British str., from Canton.  
 2, Haimun, British str., from Tamsui.  
 2, Bengal, British str., from Shanghai.  
 2, Bombay, British str., from Singapore.  
 2, Guthrie, British str., from Kobe.  
 2, Hating, French str., from Haiphong.  
 2, Hermes, Norwegian str., from Hongay.  
 2, Onsang, British str., from Java.  
 2, Pakshan, British str., from Saigon.  
 2, Shini Maru, Japanese str., from Moji.  
 2, Whampoa, British str., from Swatow.  
 2, Bonaventure, British cruiser, from Manila.  
 2, Antenor, British str., from Liverpool.  
 2, Clam, British str., from Batoum.  
 2, Quarta, German str., from Saigon.  
 2, Taichow, British str., from Amoy.  
 2, Trym, Norwegian str., from Saigon.  
 2, Yuensang, British str., from Manila.  
 2, Pathan, British str., from Shanghai.  
 3, Chingtu, British str., from Sydney.  
 3, Loksang, British str., from Saigon.  
 3, Maohew, British str., from Anghin.  
 3, Thales, British str., from Coast Ports.  
 3, Gefion, German cruiser, from a cruise.

## January—

## DEPARTURES.

- 28, Indus, French str., for Europe, &c.  
 28, Ariake Maru, Jap. str., for Kutchinotzu.  
 28, Independent, German str., for Moji.  
 28, Germania, German str., for Saigon.  
 28, Canton, British str., for Saigon.  
 28, Choysang, British str., for Swatow.  
 28, Chunsang, British str., for Saigon.  
 28, Eidsvold, British str., for New York.  
 28, Wakasa Maru, Jap. str., for Yokohama.  
 28, Hupeh, British str., for Saigon.  
 28, Fushun, Chinese str., for Canton.  
 29, Nanyatsu Maru, Japanese str., for Saigon.  
 29, Haitan, French str., for Hoihow.  
 29, Ask, Danish str., for Padang.  
 29, Doyo Maru, Japanese str., for Saigon.  
 29, Ebani, British str., for Hongay.  
 29, Hanoi, French str., for Haiphong.  
 29, Fausang, British str., for Amoy.  
 29, Chihli, British str., for Canton.  
 30, Nanyang, British str., for Swatow.  
 30, Propontia, British str., for Saigon.  
 30, Kinshu Maru, Jap. str., for Kobe.  
 30, Pechili, British str., for Takan.  
 30, Esmeralda, British str., for Manila.  
 30, Tordenskjold, Norw. str., for Saigon.  
 30, Sydney, French str., for Shanghai.

- 31, Haitan, British str., for Coast Ports.  
 31, Chiyo Maru, Japanese str., for Moji.  
 31, Kyoto Maru, Jap. str., for Saigon.  
 31, Energia, British str., for New York.  
 1, Catherine Apcar, British str., for Calcutta.  
 3, Plover, British gunboat, for a cruise.

## February—

- 1, Preussen, German str., for Europe, &c.  
 1, Commonwealth, Brit. str., for New York.  
 1, Dardanus, British str., for Shanghai.  
 1, Glenfalloch, British str., for Amoy.  
 1, Chwnshan, British str., for Swatow.  
 1, Bygdo, Norwegian str., for Saigon.  
 1, Changsha, British str., for Sydney.  
 1, Hongkong, French str., for Hoihow.  
 1, Sultan, British str., for Hongay.  
 1, Cheang H. Kian, British str., for Amoy.  
 1, Chowtai, British str., for Bangkok.  
 1, Gotion, German cruiser, for a cruise.  
 2, Clara, German str., for Haiphong.  
 2, Ingraban, German str., for Saigon.  
 2, Kong Beng, British str., for Saigon.  
 2, Hoihao, French str., for Pakhoi.  
 2, Loongmoon, German str., for Shanghai.  
 2, Formosa, British str., for Swatow.  
 2, Glenesk, British str., for Shanghai.  
 2, Gaelic, British str., for San Francisco.  
 2, Nord, Norwegian str., for Moji.  
 2, Kamakura Maru, Jap. str., for London.  
 2, Fushun, Chinese str., for Shanghai.  
 2, Chihli, British str., for Shanghai.  
 2, Bombay, British str., for Kobe.  
 3, Tetartos, German str., for Saigon.  
 3, Whampoa, British str., for Swatow.  
 3, Haimun, British str., for Swatow.  
 3, Yedo Maru, Japanese str., for Saigon.  
 3, D. Rickmers, German str., for Hamburg.

## PASSENGERS LIST.

## ARRIVED.

- Per *Kinshu Maru*, from Seattle Wash., Mrs. F. E. Adams.  
 Per *Haitan*, from Coast Ports, Mr. Greig, Miss Carling, Miss Saddler, Mr. Saddler, and Rev. A. Connell.  
 Per *Fushun*, from Shanghai, Right Rev. Bishop and Mrs. Cranston and three daughters.  
 Per *Sydney*, from Marseilles, Mrs. Anblot and two children, Mrs. Saunder, Messrs. Thompson, Dewar, Sambuc, Hofman, Rob Niron, Douzel, Hardy, Rubota, Obermiller and 102 Chinese.  
 Per *Hohenzollern*, from Yokohama, Mr. T. P. Richardson, Mrs. Arnold, Messrs. E. George, A. Richter, P. Schramm, Miss T. Focke, Mr. W. Francis, Dr. von Schab, Dr. and Mrs. Papellier and child, Messrs. G. M. Cutting, H. Baumen, F. Avonowitch, P. de Goloonine, and G. Eogenieff.  
 Per *Formosa*, from Tamsui, &c., Messrs. Kotani, Kio Aiki, Taichiro Anoka, Moale, and Koo.  
 Per *Preussen*, from Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. P. H. Haskeez and family, Messrs. Pohitaro Kato and Rik Lee, Mr. and Mrs. Misbar, Lieut. Halier, Messrs. Sakasaburo Kato, E. P. Botello, and B. F. Fox.  
 Per *Rosetta*, from Yokohama, Mr. Wallace, Miss Hunter Brown, Messrs. Eames, Modder, Plant, Whittaker, and Woodrow.  
 Per *Haimun*, from Tamsui, Mrs. Primrose and child, Mr. G. Schaar, Messrs. Duncan and Goode, and Master Lewis.  
 Per *Bengal*, from Shanghai for Hongkong, Miss N. May, Messrs. A. S. Lee and Pon Wai, Miss B. Foster, Miss Bancroft, and Mr. A. J. Loughery, R.N.; for Bombay, Mr. and Mrs. Matsuo; for Marseilles, Comdr. Grafton, R.N.; Mrs. Coutts, Miss Coutts; for London, Mrs. Henderson, Rev. and Mrs. W. Peel, Miss Watson, Mr. and Mrs. Turnberth, child and infant, and Miss J. Wilkins.  
 Per *Yuensang*, from Manila, &c., Mr. Schneer and son, Messrs. Winter, Carroll, Cappa, McDonald, Price, Coates, Jones, Liketty, Vernon, Pucini, Gassett, Capt. Raymond, Mrs. Schinker, Mrs. Rosalia, and Miss Blum.

## DEPARTED.

- Per *Sungkiang*, for Manila, Messrs. A. Pustau, Scheibler, Jacob Miller, W. C. Jewell, Capt. G. R. Comings, Lieut. Gallors, Messrs. S. Yamamoto, J. E. Hays, W. C. Aitken, W. Potasch, F. Lepan, M. J. Bresnan, Stephen Gatt, Mrs. J. W. Dreifuss, Mrs. Josefa Canasoso, Mr. and Mrs. V. Rani, Mr. and Mrs. Matsuo, Messrs. Marucio Maguano, Warner, and Milanio.

Per *Indus*, from Hongkong for Marseilles, Mr. and Mrs. I. Frapaga and five children, Mr. and Mrs. V. Martinez and three children, Mr. and Mrs. T. Domenech, Mrs. Roux Gay, Mrs. T. Sains and child, Messrs. G. Steiner, Garces de Marsellai and daughter, L. Sains, J. Pastorin, B. Muniz, F. Cartejon, and Lieut. M. G. Martho; for Singapore, Messrs. Mertens, Debonlet, A. W. Bailey, L. S. Tiemann, and W. H. Devine; for Saigon, Messrs. F. Michel, E. Sailer, and J. Rouget. For Saigon from Kobe, Mr. Bourgarel; from Nagasaki, Mrs. Fontaine. For Singapore from Nagasaki, Mr. Paul Frintzel; from Shanghai, Capt. and Mrs. Ehy, and Mr. Richards. For Port Said from Shanghai, Mr. S. D. Severbieff; from Yokohama, Mr. Wahrle; from Nagasaki, Capt. Parenogo, and Mr. Serebrenikoff. For Marseilles from Shanghai, Mr. Camille Revel, Mr. and Mrs. Sennet, Messrs. Ed. Aparicio, Eudes d'Endiville, Delaplanche, and Gallety; from Yokohama, Mr. and Mrs. Rigo and infant, Col. Arisoka, Mr. Friburg, Major Jeto, Messrs. Pareto and Repenn, Mr. and Mrs. Gros, and Mr. Bellin; from Kobe, Sir Bernardine.

Per *Tokio Maru*, for Thursday Island, &c., Mr. and Mrs. Downe, Miss Johnstone, Mr. Ceresole, and Mrs. T. Nakayama.

Per *Sydney*, from Hongkong for Shanghai, Miss Piry, Messrs. P. Piry, J. Glass, Geo. A. Derby, H. C. Smart, L. Thompson, J. Doe, R. Guida, Ridpeth, Lo Tze Hong, Abbas Ali, Capt. Twist, apt. J. W. Lee, Mr. and Mrs. Mars; for Nagasaki, Mr. and Mrs. L. Hepstein; for Kobe, Mr. Y. Yamamoto; for Yokohama, Messrs. S. Isaacs and J. M. Cottal.

Per *Catherine Apcar*, for Singapore, Mr. D. S. Gubbay, Misses Gubbay (2); for Calcutta, Mr. and Mrs. Hitch, and Mr. B. L. Bottwalla. Per *Changsha*, for Manila, Mrs. M. D. Andrews, Misses Soidmore, Wallace, and Bennett, Mrs. Partieria, Lieut. and Mrs. G. D. Moore, Messrs. T. A. Eddy, A. Tucker, J. W. Bolles, W. Klein, H. Earnfort, E. A. Elliot, J. C. White, S. Felman, C. S. Harvey, R. Grant, C. Lichamo, F. M. Garcia, J. W. Reid, T. F. Kinneil, J. Forest, and Shermineki; for Sydney, Messrs. Owen C. Williams, E. E. D. Clarke, and C. H. Buckman.

Per *Preussen*, from Shanghai for Singapore, Mr. W. Ehrhart; for Deli, Mr. E. Siemssen; for Port Said, Mr. Octavius Johns and Baron Wolff; for Genoa, Mr. C. Rudolph, Mr. and Mrs. Cameron, Mr. A. Michele, and Mrs. A. Klinke; for Bremen, Capt. Brussatis, Capt. Lieut. Poock, Lieut. Z. S. Kuhne, Lieut. Z. S. Behnesch, and four I.G.M. deck officers; for Antwerp, Misses G. Buchanan and B. Buchanan; for London, Mr. and Mrs. Truemann and children, Miss E. Sayle, Mr. Prengle J. S. Wilson, and Mrs. O. H. Harris and child. For Yokohama for Suez, Mr. Paul Schramm; for Genoa, Miss T. Focke. From Kobe for Genoa, Dr. von Schab, Mr. and Mrs. Papellier and child; for Southampton, Mr. G. M. Cutting; from Nagasaki for Port Said, Mr. F. Avonowitch; for Naples, Messrs. P. de Goloonine and G. Eogenieff. From Amoy for Southampton, Miss Carling and Rev. Sadler. From Hongkong for Singapore, Mr. Wuttke, Mr. and Mrs. Wong Fook and children; for Colombo, Mr. Gustav Melchers; for Genoa, Messrs. J. W. Einstmann and C. Kohnke; for Antwerp, Messrs. John Fadden, W. Morgan, H. Struck, M. Kleinfeldt, I. Woods, C. Fear, I. Read, C. Vallentin, G. Anderson, W. Denny, J. Short, G. Vakus, C. v. Johansen, E. O. Connel, J. Davis, W. Dnstg, A. Anderson, G. Baccson, V. Benson, W. Thesing, A. Vettors, C. Johnson, W. Ryan, J. Thor, A. Jokinsen, and C. Gower; for Southampton, Messrs. J. B. Michael, Paul Jordan, W. Dunlope, and W. E. Richardson; for Bremen, Mr. and Mrs. Schoneemann and child, I.G.M. Engineer Leykum, and Miss Grohmann.

Per *Gaelic*, for Shanghai, Messrs. M. J. Moses and M. H. Stewart; for Nagasaki, Mr. K. Matsumoto, Bishop Cranston, Miss Cranston, Mr. J. L. Anderson; for Kobe, Mr. E. L. Dibrel; for Yokohama, Messrs. T. C. Hin, Tean Kook Yee, and F. J. Grace; for San Francisco, Messrs. I. J. Lackey, H. L. Giller, W. A. Sparks, and E. J. Barrett; for Portland, Mrs. Cranston, Misses Laura Cranston and Ruth Cranston; for London, Mr. Thos. R. Dewar.

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